

LA BOOK

LOS-ANGELES FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The First Hundred Years

977.842/B1 HZb coby 2

TN 202708

Belton Community Projects, Inc.

A non-profit corporation organized "to unite the efforts of Belton's individuals, churches, civic, social and fraternal organizations on large scale projects intended to make our city a better place to live; including serving as custodian for funds raised or donated for a community center or centers, primarily for our youth." This organization was the sponsoring organization for Belton's Centennial Celebration.

- - OFFICERS - - -

Jim Shields, President

Bob Crane, Vice-President

Jamie Quinn, Secretary Jack Fleming, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICERS

Duane Hylton

Calla Saultz

Sherry Willey

- - - CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES - - -

General Chairman, Jim Shields

HOMECOMING COMMITTEE

Lee and Frankie Stark

Mary Catherine Sams

Pauline Mosby

Doris Lee Long Alice Pugh

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

1930 and Back: Mary Catherine Sams -- Pauline Mosby

1930 - 1940: Fred Phillips -- Alma J. Phillips -- Ada Groh

1940 - 1950: Faye Wallace -- Frankie Stark

1950 - 1960: Richard Quick -- Carol Quick -- Pat Dunkin -- J. L. (Jake) Jones

1960 - 1965: Doris Lee Long -- Jackie Kriesel -- Beverly Kincaid -- Peggy Taylor

1965 - 1970: Charlene Stevens -- Jane Anderson -- Beth Schwartz --

1971 Alice Pugh

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Dodie L. Maurer -- Mary Catherine Sams, Co-Chairmen

Dorothy Lane -- Laura Turner -- Dorothy Looney -- Audys Duvall -- Mary Bertolino -- Barbara Brown Margaret Wade -- Dixie Bartimus -- Jack Dryden -- Marge Holden -- Kay McCartney -- Deloris Person

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

J. Weldon Jackson -- Chairman

Bernice Collins -- Jack Fleming -- Kala Handley -- Rick Horne -- Sue Knebel Leo Mosby -- Pauline Mosby -- Dr. C. F. Yeokum -- Frankie Stark

PARADE CHAIRMAN -- John Hart

Original Art Work for Centennial Book -- Margie McKinley Dimick



Members of the General Centennial Committee at a Meeting in February, 1972

Printing -- The Belton Star-Herald, 419 Main St., Belton, Missouri Corder's Printing, Inc., 534 No. Scott St., Belton, Missouri

- - - Foreword - - -

Welcome to Belton! On the succeeding pages is told its story — from the beginning to the present time, 1972, the year of its Centennial observance.

In many ways Belton's history is similar to many other towns which began at about the same time and in the same general area. The economic factors which affected its good times and its bad were not confined to Belton alone.

But aside from touching on some of these outside factors, this book is about one town situated in Cass County, Missouri, some 17 miles south of Kansas City.

There is much that is not told. What has been omitted is not from intent but from the factors of time and the lack of readily available research material.

In reality, what is here is primarily the result of a wholehearted spirit of co-operation by a host of present and former Belton residents.

They have searched their attics, family albums, old trunks and lock boxes, written letters and articles and made phone calls to find and give to the historical committee of the Centennial a volume of pictures, information and memorabilia for inclusion in this book. Without them none of it would have been possible.

The committee has tried to capture the flavor and pulse of Belton. In addition to recording in one place the important dates and facts concerning our town, there also has been an attempt made to record the fact that it is towns like ours and the people who are or have been a part of it that join with others the length and breadth of this United States, in carrying on from generation to generation the ideas and ideals that were the basis of this country's beginnings.

Dodie L. Maurer Mary Catherine Sams

HARRY S TRUMAN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI February 24, 1972

Dear Mrs. Wade:

On the occasion of the observance of Belton, Missouri Centennial Celebration, I am happy to extend congratulations for the progress and advancement that has been made in the past, and I send you my best wishes for continued progress.

Harry S. Milha-

Mrs. Everett E. Wade Route 1 Belton, Missouri 64012



Former President
Harry S. Truman at
Groundbreaking ceremonies
for the Belton Masonic Lodge
April 20, 1963



HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J., CHAIRMAN JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA. CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I. EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS. GAYLORD NELSON, WIS, WALTER F. MONDALE, MINN, THOMAS F. EAGLETON, MO. ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF HAROLD E. HUGHES, IOWA ADLAI E, STEVENSON III, ILL.

JACOB K. JAVITS, N.Y. WINSTON L. PROUTY, VT. PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO. RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, PA. BOB PACKWOOD, OREG. ROBERT TAFT, JR., OHIO
J. GLENN BEALL, JR., MD.

STEWART E. MCCLURE, STAFF DIRECTOR ROBERT E. NAGLE, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 24, 1972

Mrs. Joseph J. Maurer Belton Centennial Book P. O. Box 433 Belton, Missouri 64012

Dear Mrs. Maurer:

As I'm sure you know, my office regularly receives The Belton Star-Herald. Our subscription is obviously not as old as the newspaper or the city, but we have read with interest about the activities and plans for Belton's Centennial Celebration.

On noticing that a Centennial Book would be published, we contacted you to ask if we could submit a letter of congratulations. They are deserved.

Belton, indeed, has a proud past and a bright future. I have always enjoyed a trip to your city, to visit with the good people of Belton. They--moreso than the economic, demographic, or geographic factors -- are the reasons for the accomplishments of the past as well as the promise of that bright future.

Until I have a chance to return, my best wishes and again my congratulations on your anniversary.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Eagleton United States Senator

Pom Bagletor

TFE/kc



WM. J. RANDALL House of Representatives Washington

January 26, 1972

Dear Mayor Willey:

This is to express our warmest congratulations and very best wishes to the residents of Belton on the occasion of your Centennial celebration.

It is progressive communities such as Belton that provide the greatness of our District and State. Your citizens are to be commended for their willingness to give of their time and talent to make their community such a prosperous and pleasant place to live.

Belton has a rich history but in my judgment also a bright future. As your Representative in the Congress, I am proud that the fine community of Belton is a part of the 4th Missouri District.

For Belton, now 100 years young, it is our sincere wish that your second century may show continued and sustained progress for a greater Belton.

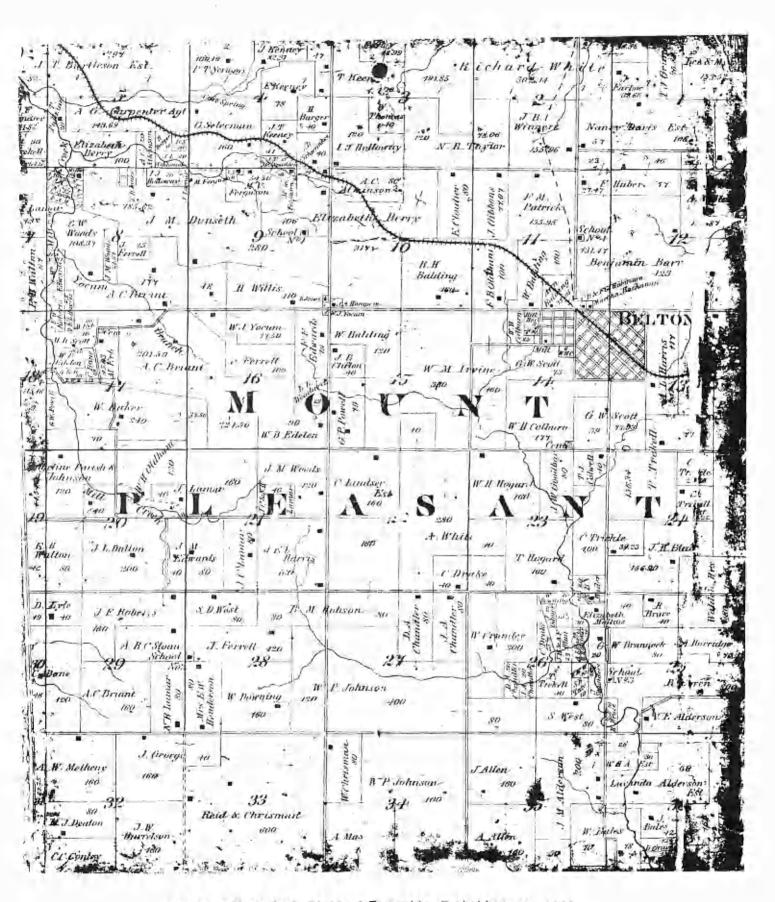
With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

Randall

The Honorable J. Wayne Willey Mayor Belton, Missouri 64012



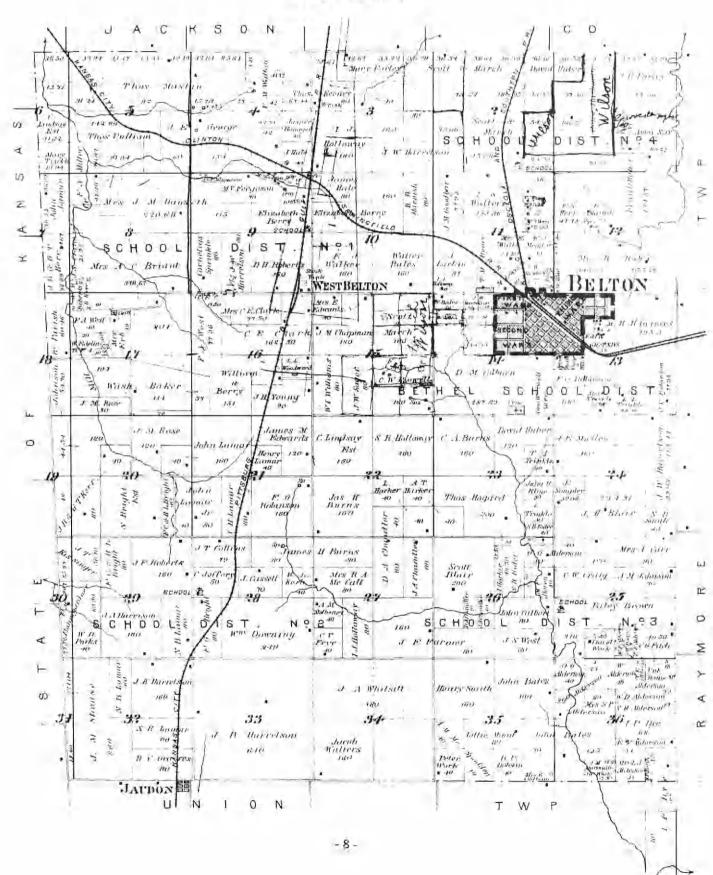
An Early Plat of Mt. Pleasant Township, Probably in the 1880s

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

Township 46 North, Range 33 West,

of the 5th Principal Merid

(1895 Plat Book)



Acres delle sint parter for the C. E. Wilson rodhent & nobinson's Д лой. Henry 89. 11 MINSON'S ADD 3 3 J. V. ROHINSON & SCOTT & COLBERN'S 3 FIRST ADD. SECOND - ADD. H FIRST GADD 12 TITIL 12 MILE G. W. SCOTT'S ECOND Fair Grounds LANCH ADDITION M. Catburn PLAT BOOK OF CASS COUNTY MISSOURI 1895

George Washington Scott

Founder of Belton

George Scott was only a year old in the early fall of 1836 when his parents, Johnathan and Frances Stanfield Scott decided to leave Virginia, the land of their birth, and travel to Missouri. There were six of the children, Adaline Martha, 13, John James, 11 (who died on the trip west and was buried in Kentucky), Robert Milton, 10, Charles Wesley, 8, Benjamin Franklin 6 and Elizabeth Rebecca, 4.

The family traveled in five covered wagons led by teams of oxen and they brought 21 household slaves with them. It was winter when they reached and crossed the Mississippi near Hannibal, Mo., where they stayed until the spring.

The story is told that when they neared Florida, Mo., after resuming their journey, they saw a youngster not quite two years old running along the side of the road. Assuming he was lost, Mrs. Scott had the wagons stopped, picked him up and put him in the wagon with George. Arriving in Florida, where they decided to make their home, they soon found the parents of the little boy, who turned out to be Samuel Longhorne Clemens, who in later years was better known as Mark Twain.

Two more children were born to the Scotts, James Madison and Virginia Frances, before Johnathan Scott died on July 12, 1841 when he was 47 years old. The children were orphaned less than five years later when Frances Scott died on Jan. 28, 1846 at the age of 44.

The Scott children were taken in by families in Paris and Florida, Mo. George W. Scott was taken in by S. P. Clapper and lived there until 1852. He worked three years at a wagon and carriage lumber business, reading a great deal in his spare time educating himself.

He had been in the mercantile business for two years at New Sante Fe, Mo. (Jackson County), when he married Susan Eleanor March on Jan. 14, 1858. She was born in Green County, Ill., on Dec. 1, 1838, the only daughter of George Washington March and Mary A. Gregg. The March's also had a son Wallace McCampbell March, born April 20, 1843.

George and Susan had three children. Mary Ella, who was born Nov. 3, 1860 and died when she was sixteen on April 1, 1876; Fanny Lee, who was born on a farm near Lee's Summit, Nov. 13, 1862 and John Walter Scott who was born Feb. 5, 1868. He married Maleta Harrelson on Oct. 19, 1893. They had one son, Frank Harrelson Scott who was married in Mexico, Mo. to Laura H. Snedeker. They had no children and are now living in Sarasota, Fla. Fanny Lee married R. C. Wilson of Virginia in 1886, and they made their home in Belton. The Wilson family history appears elsewhere in this book.

Prior to the Civil War, in 1860, the Scotts first lived on the G. M. (Mart) Wright farm, north of where Belton was later founded, and then moved to a farm in Jackson County near Lee's Summit. It was here that he became friends with William H. Colbern a lumberman and banker who would one day join him in buying the land that would become Belton.

When the Civil War broke out, both the Scott and March families moved in or near Independence where their Gregg relatives lived, and George Scott enlisted in the Confederate Army. He fought in the battles of Cane Hill, Prairie Grove, Pea Ridge and Westport. After the Civil War, the Scotts returned to Lee's Summit. Scott made a trip to Kentucky and then persuaded his friend, Colbern, to join him in buying from Manzey Q. Ashby of that state, the land upon which Belton was founded.

Soon after Belton was founded and dedicated on Dec. 20,



George Washington Scott



Susan Eleanor March

1871, George Scott moved his family to Belton and builf a home on the southwest corner of what is now Spring and Scott streets.

Scott was active in the early civic and social life of Belton. He served a term as mayor and was a charter member and first Worshipful Master of Belton Masonic Lodge No. 450. He was also a member of Belton Lodge No. 145, A.O.U.W. (Ancient Order of United Workmen). He gave to the City of Belton the land for City Hall on Main Street and also the land for the first school, the present site of the Walnut St. school building.

He became a partner of Wallace McCampbell March, his wife's brother on Jan. 12, 1880. They were farmers and shipped hundreds of carloads of grain, wheat, corn and flax from Belton, under the firm name of Scott & March. He was also an early banker in Belton, Scott invented the first press wheat drill

and a blue grass stripper. A corn planter be invented was sold to the John Deere Co.

He died at his home in Belton, June 10, 1922. His wife,

Susan died Jan. 14, 1901.

Of the nine children of the early Scotts, Captain Robert Milton Scott was George Scott's closest relative. He married Elizabeth White Stevens of Paris, Mo. They had one daughter Sarah Frances, who grew up as a close cousin of Fanny Scott. The girls exchanged visits between Belton and Paris. Sarah married William E. Hill, a banker at Keytesville, Mo. They had five children, Frank W., who became an actor and never married; Elizabeth who married S. Woodson Hundley of St. Joseph; Lucille, who married Charles S. Keith; Sallye married Frank M. Bernardin and Helen Married George M. Hawes. The last three all lived in Kansas City, Mo. The only one living today is Sallye Scott Hill, who is often a visitor to Belton.

(Information for the Scott history was supplied by his grand-daughter, Mrs. Grace Wilson Van Bront of Kansas City, who was assisted by her late brother's (Scott) son, William Wilson of Adam's Run, S. C. and by Mrs. Sallye Scott Hill, a greatment of George W. Scott. Both had copies of the early Scott family Bibles listing the Scotts who came from Habfax Co. near Scottsburg, Va. The Bibles also listed the names and births of the 21 household slaves who accompanied the Scott wagon train to Missouri.)



The George W. Scott original home which was located on the southwest corner of Spring and Scott Streets. The walk was made of soft soap stones brought from Westport. His great-granddaughter, Frances Scott Dunlap is shown in front of the house. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunlap.

The Founding and

Naming of Belton

George W. Scott and William H. Colbern, a Lee's Summit banker purchased the land on which Belton is located from Manzey Q. Ashby of Kentucky. The original entry from Plat Book 12-22-1854 shows U. S. to Manzey Q. Ashby, July 15, 1869. The sale of the land to Scott and Colbern appears in Book 1, Page 266, filed Aug. 13, 1869. A little more than two years later on Dec. 20, 1871, the Plat of Belton was filed and the dedication held. The abstract that records this filing appears in the Town Plat Book, page 16 of the Recorder's office at Harrisonville, Mo.

The land bought was the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 14, and West Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 13, Township 46, Range 33, Cass County, Mo.

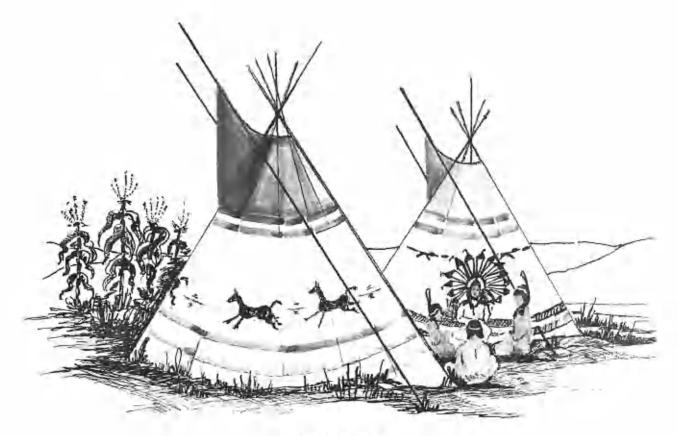
and comprised approximately 80 acres.

While doing research for this book, it was discovered that Manzey Q. Ashby, the original owner of the land on which Belton is situated, was a great-great grandfather of Barker Lane, 303 E. South Ave., Belton, recent city councilman. His paternal grandmother was Georgia Hamilton Lane, a daughter of George Hamilton and Ellen Ashby Hamilton. Ellen was the daughter of Manzey Q. and Marcia C. Ashby.

It was reported in the 1917 Cass County History that Belton was named for a blacksmith named Belt. A letter to The Belton Star-Herald in 1966 from Scott Wilson, since deceased, grandson of George Scott, disputed this report. According to Wilson, family members had remembered their grandfather Scott telling them it was named for a close friend, Capt. Marcus Lindsey Belt, whom he had served under during the Civil War in Gordon's Regiment of Cavalry in General Joe Shelby's Brigade. Scott served from 1861 to 1865. Belt had helped Scott when the town was being surveyed.

In preparation for publication of this book, Grace Wilson VanBrunt of Kansas City undertook to track down Capt. Belt. She was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Crouch, Jr. of Harrisonville; Grace Elizabeth Taylor who wrote the Peculiar Centennial Book; Frank P. Catron of Lexington, the cousin of a Kansas City neighbor; Robert E. Catron, a T.W.A. overseas captain; the National Archieves of Veteran's records at Washington D. C. and the office of the Adjutant General, National Guard, Jefferson City. Verification of Capt. Belt was made and it was learned he was the first superintendent of the Confederate Home in Higginsville, established in 1891. During the war he had served in Company B, Gordon's Regiment.

Capt. Belt died Aug. 27, 1921 at Higginsville. The Aug. 17, 1939 issue of The Belton Star-Herald carried a reprint of his obituary which appeared in the Higginsville paper. It was brought in by Roy G. Johnston who had been given it on a trip to Louisville, Ky. by a Pullman conductor named Belt. The obituary states that "He (Belt) had contracts with the Frisco when that road was built and the town of Belton in Cass County was named in his honor."



Indians

By Dorothy Lane

"Indians today are remnants of a once populous and flourishing American people. Some of their colorful life can still be observed in 22 of the 50 United States. Missouri is not one of these, for soon after statehood in 1821 all Indians were moved from her borders to the adjacent Indian Territory later to become Kansas and Oklahoma. A Missourian who wishes to see Indians must go outside his state."
----INDIANS AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF MISSOURI Carl H. Chapman and Eleanor F. Chapman

Indians lived and owned land four miles west of Belton, just across the Missouri-Kansas state line, on what was known as the Black Bob Reservation. This reservation was located in the southern part of Johnson County and was deeded to the Shawnees in the treaty of May 10, 1844, consisting of 33,392.87 acres of very fine, rich land. In the treaty of May 10, 1854, this tract of land was receded to the government and then 200,000 acres were retroceded to the Shawnees in severalty. The Shawnees had divided into two bands, the 'severalty or head-right' community, who selected their home in severalty, and the 'Black Bob' band, who chose to hold them in common, and under the treaty gave them the right to select 200 acres at any future time as 'head-right.'

At the beginning of the Civil War, because of the continued harassment from raiders on either side of the conflict, the Shawnees abandoned their always plentiful lands and settled in the Indian Territory that is now Oklahoma. After the close of the war, the disbanding of the armies and consequent rush for homes in the new state, these abandoned lands of the Shawnees were quickly occupied by the settlers.

When the Shawnees believed peace had been restored, they sent about one hundred of their most intelligent men back to their old homes in Johnson County to dispose of their lands. They found their lands occupied by settlers that had rushed in after the war, and the situation being thus complicated, they found some difficulty in making sales, thus giving a great opening for the land speculators

In 1867, certain Indians received their patents and sold to different parties, the first sale being made on October 28, 1867 to J. C. Irvin, a total of 3600 acres for an approximate price of \$4.80 per acre. Some settlers demanded title direct from the government, others accepted patents from the Indians.

These Black Bob Shawnees, when they sold, moved to Indian Territory and united with the Cherokees. Mny of them who did not sell remained in Kansas, often without a home as their lands were occupied by treaspassers.

Isaac J. Holloway, an early pioneer and resident of Belton, recalled in Judge Allen Glenn's 1917 History of Cass County that his father homesteaded a quarter section of land which was situated in the western part of Jackson county, not far from the Shawnee Indian reservation. Black Bob, the celebrated Shawnee Chief and founder of the Black Bob reservation, was well known to the Holloway family and had eaten dinner at their home. Isaac remembered Black Bob well and said that he was an honest Indian and the Shawnees were a quiet, peaceable tribe. Numerous occasions were still fresh in his memory when prairie fires came sweeping from the "Indian country."

Descendants of John Henry McKinley, presently living in Belton, tell us that in the year 1872 McKinley bought acreage on what had been the Black Bob reservation and moved his lamily there from Westport Landing, There were a few Indians still living in the area. McKinley's wife, Sarah, never ceased to be surprised upon finding an Indian brave sitting in the kitchen which was separate from the living area of the home. After being given their favorite treat of home made light bread, spread with sugar, they would always leave as quietly as they had arrived.

Carry Nation

By Dorothy Lane



Carry Nation when she was 26

When Carry Nation started swinging her hatchet across the plains of Kansas, the anti-saloon movement was a mere weak-ling. She transformed it into a militant giant that eventually put the eighteenth amendment into the constitution.

Born Carry Amelia Moore in Garrard County, Kentucky, Nov. 25, 1846, she was the daughter of Mary J. (Campbell) Moore and George Moore. Those who remembered Carry, recalled her in youth as a pleasant and attractive person, an unlikely candidate for the role she was to play in the saga of prohibition.

According to her autobiography, the house where she was born had ten rooms, built of hand-hewn logs, weather boarded and plastered. The parlor, which she was seldom allowed to enter, was remembered as the greatest attraction, with its gold-leaf wallpaper and red plush furniture. Included in her memories was the beautiful garden where eight of her ancestors were buried including her grandfather in 1813. There was a "long house" on the farm where the negro women would spin and weave. Flax and sheep were raised on the farm for spinning linen for summer wear and woolen for winter wear. Carry learned to spin at an early age on a small wheel her father had made for her. Moore had a mill and store in Lincoln County near Hustonsville.

Her association with the negro servants made a lasting impression on Carry. The stories they told and their oldtime religion stayed with her always. She was very attached to one named Aunt Judy, and wanted to take care of her in her old age. She went to Southern Texas to get her in 1873, only to find she had been dead six months. The first time she ever attended church, she rode behind her nurse on horseback, and sat with them in the gallery. In 1908 she said, "A worse slavery is now on us. I would rather have my son sold to a slave-driver than

to be a victim of a saloon."

Among her early memories were those of her Grandmothen Moore who always carried on the horn of her saddle a handbag, called a "reticule". In it she always brought a treat for the children, usually, a cut off a loaf of sugar, that used to be sold in the shape of a long loaf of bread.

When Carry was five years old, the family moved to a place about two miles from Danville, Ky. In 1854 the Moores moved to Woodford County, Ky. Her father was one of the trustees in building the Orphan's Home at Midway.

The year 1855 brought Carry, then nine years old, and her family to a farmeast of Peculiar in Cass County, Missouri. During the trip on the boat, Carrytook a severe cold which she claimed affected her health for years. She admitted to not being a trustful child nor honest. Only after receiving a book at Sunday School telling of the way people became thieves, by beginning to take little things, some of them the same as she had been taking from her family and home, did she realize berself a thief.

It was about this time Carry was converted, She relates in her autobiography; "There was a protracted meeting at a place called Hickman's Mill, Jackson County, Mo. The minister was gray haired and belonged to the Christian of Disciple's Church, the one my father belonged to. I was at this time ten years old and went with my father to church on Lord's Day morning. At the close of the sermon and during the invitation, my father stepped to the pulpit and spoke to the minister and he looked over in my direction. At this I began to weep bitterly, some power seemed to impel me to go forward and sit down on the front bench. I could not have told anyone what I wept for, except it was a longing to be better. The next day I was taken to a running stream about two miles away, and, although it was quite cold and some ice in the water, I felt no fear. It seemed like a dream. I said no word, I felt the responsibility of my new relationship and tried hard to do right",

When she was fifteen the war broke out between the north and the south. Families that owned negroes took them and went south, in many instances, to Texas. Their belongings were packed in wagons, for there were no railroads in the area. One of the wagons had six yoke of oxen hitched to it and a ladder was used to get into it. The family rode in the carriage. After being on the road six weeks, the Moores stopped at Grayson County, Tex. and bought a farm. Carry's health improved there and she spent her days horse back riding, and sewing on grey uniforms for the southern boys to wear to war.

When the family fully recovered from an epidemic of typhoid fever, her father left negro servants in the south and returned his family to Missouri. They were often stopped by Southern troops, in the Territory and Texas, and then again by northerners. They passed over the Pea Ridge battle ground shortly after the battle, and all bedding and pillows that could be spared were given to the wounded.

Moore was held in the highest esteem by his daughter, she found him always the master of the situation. She recalled: "When we lived in Cass County, during the war, we saw Quantrill's men coming up to the house. These men were dressed in slouch hats, gray suits, and had their guns and haversacks roped to their saddles. My father did not know to what extent he was disliked by the bushwhackers, and we were very much alarmed; fully expected some harm was meant. Men on both sides were frequently taken out and shot down. He walked out to meet them taking his hat off and called 'Good Morning' to them in a friendly tone. Asked them toget off their horses, for he had a treat for them. In the corner of the yard was the carriage house and under that was a rock spring house, through

which a living stream of water ran around the pans of milk. He took them to the door, gave them seats, then went in this milkhouse and brought out a jar of buttermilk. I have heard it said that buttermilk is one of the greatest treats to a soldier. He talked with these men as if they had been friends; brought out fruit; loaded them with bread, butter and milk; and they left without even taking a horse from us. I fully believe it was their intention to do some barm, but by the tact of my father they were disarmed."

Carry did a beautiful thing for her father, In his last years it grieved him that he was unable to pay a debt he owed. After his death, when she was inancially able, she sought out the heirs of Mr. Wills at Peculiar, Missouri and paid the

debt.

Shortly after the family returned to their home in Cass County, Order Number 11 was issued. The Moores moved to Kansas City and Carry was in Independence during the battle when General Price came through. She went with other women

to nurse the wounded at the hospital.

The last school Carry attended was at Liberty, Mo. when she was 18. She never elaborated on her love affairs, however, she stated she was a great lover. She was more attracted by that of the mind, rather than beauty of face or form. Country dances and sometimes balls in the city were favorites although she refused to dance a round dance with a gentleman. Hugging school (Carry's term for dancing school) was not compatible with a true woman. She considered herself popular with the men and testimony has been given that she always had more time to joke with the men, than converse with women.

Upon their return to Cass Countyafter the war, Mr. Moore was evidently connected with the school in some way. It was reportedly named the George Moore School in his honor.

In the fall of 1865, Dr. Charles Gloyd, a young physician called on Moore in efforts to secure a teaching position at the country school. He wanted to teach for the winter before deciding if he wanted to practice his profession.

Cloyd won the heart of young Carry. He later moved to Holden, Mo. and he and Carry were married on Nov. 21, 1867. He became an incurable drunkard to Carry's anguish. She returned to her father's home just before their daughter Charlien was born. A little less than six months later Dr. Gloyd died.



Of her girlhood home at Peculiar, Carry said, "Under the trees of this dear old place I listened to the sweet story of the love of a man murdered by drink."

Carry returned to Holden, made a home for her late husband's mother who kept house and took care of Charlien. Carry attended the Normal Institute of Warrensburg for one year and received a teaching certificate. She taught in the primary room of the Public School at Holden for four years but the position was lost over the pronunciation of the latter "a". It was a blow to her as she could not leave her mother-in-law and daughter to teach elsewhere.

The resolve was made to bet married. She prayed to God to select a busband for her. Then days from that time she met David Nation, a successful lawyer, newspaper editor, and minister in the Christian Church. Nation was one of the defense lawyers in the trial of Leonidas Hornsby who was charged with killing Old Drum, the dog immortalized by the other lawyer, George Graham Vest, who represented Charles Burden, Drum's owner. Carry and David were married in 1877 soon after that first meeting. Their marriage was not a happy one, he blamed her combative nature which she said was due to her having to fight for everything. However, she believed even this to be God's will for if she had married a man she could have loved she could not have fought the "demon liquor".

Two years after their marriage they exchanged their mutual properly for 1700 acres of land on the San Bernard river in Tex. With a car load of good furniture, some fine stock, hogs and

cattle, Carry and David left Missouri,

They did not succeed at farming, so Cavid left his wife in charge while he went into town to practice law. Carry left soon after and went to the small town of Columbia to start one of her several boarding houses. Her first venture was financed by borrowing \$3.50 from the cook. Other boarding houses followed resulting in long hours and hard work. Often she disagreed with churches and would hold Sunday School and church in the diving room of her boarding house.

Carry became depressed with the responsibility of the boarding house, with her family that was living with her which included a son-in-law by that time. She asked God to deliver her from it all and promised that if He would do so, she would do for Him what no one else could do—thus she started, as a divine

call from God, her fight against the liquor traffic.

David Nation took charge of a Christian Church at Medicine Lodge, Barber County, Kans., in 1889. The following year he became the pastor of a church in Holton, Kans, David was not a roaring success as a minister. Carry chose his texts for him and often wrote his sermons. She sat on the front row and in an audible tone told him when to raise and lower his voice. When she thought he had preached long enough she would step into the siste and say in a loud voice, "That will be all for today, David". If he did not respond accordingly she would march to the pulpit, bang the Bible shut and hand him his hat. In later years she said of David, "Iknew that my husband ought not to be in the ministry. I do not believe he was eyer a converted man". After a few months Nation was asked to resign from his position as minister and he did so with pleasure. He became involved in a few of Carry's projects but gradually laded from the picture when his life was threatened. When David sued Carry for divorce on grounds of desertion in 1901 Carry said, "David was too slow for me". To borrow Dale Carnegie's phrase, "That girl didn't need a husband, she needed a Kansas jackrabbit."

The cyclone in petticoats launched her campaign against tobacco and liquor from Medicine Lodge. The voters of Kansas had outlawed saloons by vote of the people about 1880. Because it was illegal to have saloons, Carry felt she could

destroy their property and not be sued for damages.

Headlines were made in her march across Kansas and Oklahoma, rock-throwing, pipe-throwing, wielding her hatchet and reading her Bible. One Sunday morning Carry, then in the Wichita jail, wired her brother Charles H. Moore in Belton "to come, that she and her group, the W.C.T.U. were doing what the law should be doing, closing liquor joints and dives". According to a recent correspondence with Carry's niece, Mrs. Geneva Van Kirk of California, Carry's father, Charles H. Moore, was living southwest of Belton on a farm at that time.

Her first method of closing saloons was by singing and praying on the walks in front of the saloons but that proved too slow. She had a vision from God to throw something so she started throwing rocks to break up saloons. Then her weapon would be lost, so the pipe and cane were next. The hatchet proved to be the ideal weapon. She spent her time in jail. which was reportedly 33 times, praying and reading her Bible. In later years she would not allow herself to be photographed without her Bible. While in jail she always managed to convert at least a few of her fellow prisoners. Few could match her witty turn of speech and most often she bested the smartest politicians and law enforcers with whom she clashed. Even though she never acquired many worldly goods, she managed well what she had to further her cause. Much of what she earned was contributed to charity,

The crusade of "the loving home defender," as she called herself, lasted ten years, filled with hiry and personal sacrifice. She was stoned, erged, beaten and on one occasion was hit over the head with a chair. A fire-proof dress was included in her wardrobe for fear a drunk would set fire to her. To finance the venture she sold hatchet pens, pamphlets and lectured. This carried Carry Nation to 48 states, England, Scotland and Mexico.

During this time, she was known to have visited Belton on two occasions, Once was at the death of her sister Edna Cantwell in 1906. The inneral was held at the Christian Church, and the late Effic Wales played the pump organ, according to Effic's sister Nettic Davidson. Upon Carry's arrival in Belton, she took charge of the funeral and preached the service. On another occasion she lectured in Belton and the late Scott Wilson, according to his sister, Mrs. Richard Dunlap, received a pen from Carry for carrying her bags from the

train to where she stayed.

The dream to spend her last days in the Ozarks took her to Eureka Springs, Arkansas in 1908. There a fourteen room house was purchased and converted to a boarding house, Carry named it "Hatchet Hall". According to Dr. Bonnie Lela Crump, guide and lecturer at Carry's last home, the famed prohibitionist not only had a boarding house but later a day school and a Sunday school - yet had plenty of time to lecture, smash some, knock out some cigars and cigarettes, (from the smokers mouths that is), and to be a good neighbor. She was famous for coffee, fluffy creamed potatoes, chicken pie and apple dumplings. The Chief of Police at Eureka Springs at that time compromised with Carry -he let her stand on a keg and lecture in front of the eleven saloons, if she wouldn't break them

Carry died June 9, 1911 at Evergreen Hospital in Leavenworth, Kans., where she had been taken the preceding January. In a letter, published by Dr. Crump in a book about Carry, a Rev. William S. Lowe relates the following: "At the time of Carry Nation's death, I was pastor of the Central Christian Church in Kansas City, Kans. Mrs. Nation had been ill in the hospital in Kansas City, and she died there, Her funeral service was held in the home of a sister of hers there. This service was held early on a Sunday morning, during our regular Sunday School time. I needed to hurry from the funeral to my own church for the regular morning service. Mrs. Nation's body was taken to Belton, Mo. for burial. From what I recall, there was a good crowd at the service."

Some people called Carry Nation insane and threw sticks. and stones and broke her bones, others called her a saint and a God-send to their communities. One thing evident is that she was faithful to her convictions of what she believed to be

right and wrong.

Carry changed things - she even put Belton on the map when her gravesite was noted on Missouri road maps. This year, Belton's centennial year, the Junior High School newspaper staff named their publication "The Smasher" in honor of Carry Nation. It was the name of one of her original publications.



Carry Nation's Monument

It was Carry's dying wish to be buried at Belton beside her father and mother. Her grave on the eastern slopes of the cemetery remained unmarked until May 30, 1924 when the Women's Christian Temperence Union and friends erected a monument inscribed: Faithful To The Cause of Prohibition - 'She Hath Done What She Could.' Shown standing beside the monument is Gloyd McNabb Foerster, the next to the eldest granddaughter.



Per copy 10d

Dale Carnegie

Although Dale Carnegie was not born in Belton or actually lived here, for some 45 years he was a frequent visitor and called it his hometown.

The world famous author and lecturer was born in Maryville, Mo., Nov. 24, 1888. From 1904 to 1908 he attended Warrensburg State Teachers College (now Central Missouri State College).

He went to New York City in 1911 with ambitions of becoming an actor. He started his career as an instructor of public speaking with the Young Men's Christian Assn. in 1912 and not long after had his own office to promote his discovery that Americans had an intense desire to succeed.

He became business manager for Lowell Thomas in 1919 and spent several years traveling in Europe, Africa and the Artic.

"Public Speaking; A Practical Course for Business Men," was published in 1926 and in 1932 it was published with the title "Speaking and Influencing Men in Business."

The book became a standard text for his courses and his audience was increased by a syndicated newspaper column which appeared in 71 newspapers. A radio program was inaugurated in 1933. His formulas for success were broadened to include all phases of human relations.

The Carnegie Institute for Effective Speech and Human Relations was established to unify his various activities.

His most famous book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People" was published in 1936. Its overall theme was the idea "believe that you will succeed and you will."

Other books published by Carnegie, all related to the success theme were "Lincoln the Unknown" (1932); "Little Known Facts About Well Known People" (1934); "Five Minute Biographies" (1937) and "How to Stop Worrying and Start Living" (1948).

An article on Carry Nation from "Five Minute Biographies" contains a reference to Belton,

Carnegie said, "I feel especially at home on the subject of Carry Nation. Although she was born about a half century before I was, I lived in the same town where she and part of James gang had grown up. For a while I attended the same college that she had attended and she is buried now in my hometown of Belton, Mo. I expect to be buried there myself so I will probably lie within a few yards of Carry Nation throughout countless centuries of time."

His parents, Elizabeth and J. W. Carnagey bought a farm on what was then the outskirts of Belton in 1910. The property was on the south side of the present Carnegie Street and approximately comprised the present sites of Deer Park and Countryside Manor housing developments. At one time Carnegie also owned a large farm in Harrisonville.

His mother was a member of the Methodist Church and active in the Missionary Society and a worker in the W.C.T.U.

She got a group of young women together in 1910 and organized Belton's first Sunday school class. The motto adopted was "Iam His" and the class was and is known as the IAH class.

Through the 1930's articles regarding Carnegies's comings and goings were reported in The Belton Star-Herald. Many citizens remember a watermelon feast prepared for him in 1937. A large crowd showed up, many hopefully expecting a speech by Carnegie. Instead, he said, "I'm sure you all are just as anxious as I am to get down to the business of eating this delicious watermelon," and that was the end of his remarks.

A year later he made a formal address at the High School as a benefit for the Belton Lions Club of which he was a member. Admittance was 25 cents.

Other appearances were made by Carnegie in Belton, one on April 7, 1940, to a standing room only crowd.



Dale Carnegie and his daughter Donna Dale

In April 1939, a syndicated column by him was carried by the Star-Herald. The column was supplied free of charge to his hometown newspaper.

Carnegie married Dorothy Price Vanderpool of Tulsa, Okla. on Nov. 5, 1940. She remains a vital part today of Dale Carnegie Associates, Inc.

He changed the spelling of his name because friends in the east constantly misspelled it. Carnegie said he wanted to spare them the embarrassment of repeated corrections.

His mother died in 1939, his father in 1941 and Carnegie died in Forest Hills, L. L. on Nov. 1, 1955. They are all buried in an underground mausoleum in the Belton remetery.

Cousins of Carnegie still live in Belton and Cass County, Mrs. George Wernex and her son Russell Wernex.

Dale Carnegie's Articles to Appear in Star-Herald

In this issue the first of a new series of articles written by Dale Carnegie appears. We are glad to announce that this highly educational and interesting feature will appear weekly through the kindness and courtesy of Dale Carnegie. Regarding this as his home, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Carnagy living here. Mr. Carnegie has naturally found many friends on his visits to Belton. And too, knowing that the cost of his syndicated articles are beyond the reach of small town papers, he has sent the Star-Hetald this feature that his local friends and neighbors may enjoy and benefit from them.

We extend to Dale our sincere appreciation and we know, too, that we speak for our subscribers.

Communicated.

Composed after supper on my birthday and dedicated to my father, now deceased, my mother, husband and children.

Dear Mother, did you think of me today, February 21st, my fifty-eighth birthday? Oh low many have been the events be-Lween

Righteen fifty-eight and nineteen sixteen!

The dear Lord has led me all thru these years,

The Five not always served him truly, I admit with tears.

He has blest me in ways that can never he told.

And now His dear service is the joy of my soul.

I thank Him for parents, who were christians indeed.

Whose counsels I was taught to faithfully heed.

Both morning and night father had family prayer.

And oft do I remember, as we all knelt Here.

How daily he prayed that ultimately we, An unbroken family, in Heaven might be. And now, dear Mother, he's gone and you're left behind.

Take comfort in this: God is loving and kind.

He'll never leave nor forsake thee, tho you're grown old,

By trusting im him, you'll be kept safe in his fold,

Altho you have lived since eighteen thirtv-two.

Keep close to Jesus, He'll guide you all the way thru.

If we never meet again on this mundane

Keep close to Jesus, all the while you are

And then when he calls you, be it morn, noon or night,

You'll answer with joy, and hail him with delight.

The dear Lord has given me a husband true

Aed two precious sons that are the true There may come a time when homecom-

And then there's Mildred, so blithe, happy and gay,

Who took the boy's place when they went away.

And now my boy, Clifton, has a home of his own.

And a true, charming wife, as is well

And two sweet little girls, full of mirth and glee,

So he is happy of course-why shouldu't he be?

My haby boy Dale, is alone in New York, Single just now, but to marriage some day may resort.

Just now he is teaching in the Y. M. C. A Of Brooklyn, New York, Trenton and Philadelphia.

Spare moments, writes for the American magazine,

And sometimes for others, it will be seen. He's happy and contented, with this busy life.

And wonders what he would do if he had a wife.

He may come home next summer his mother to see,

And can you imagine then, how happy we will be?

I am sure that the days only hours will seem.

For since we last met, most two years have intervened,

Clitton was home, us, last Xmas to see, As happy and jolly as any one could be. His dear wife and daughters were also.

And the hours seemed but moments until they were gone.

Since Xmas Clifton has bought him a ranch.

Stocked with cattle to eat grass and drink from the branch.

And so he's delighted, though still "or/ the road."

Yet to look after both seems to me quite

Come home, boys, often, to seel you iwe are glad,



Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Carnagey 1922

ing will be sad.

So let's love and serve Jesus, and be true to each other.

And at last reign with Him, children father and mother.

MRS. J. W. CARNAGEY,



Amanda Carnagey and Annie Middleton - 1922



Dale Carnegie in front of Fred Lininger home in Belton - 1951

Dale Carnegie - As I knew Him

By Harold Abbott of the Dale Carnegie Institute

I met Dale Carnegie for the first time Aug. 15, 1941. We had corresponded for several months relative to a job selling his personally conducted lectures. I never had met a celebrity of Mr. Carnegie's stature. To say I was nervous would be putting it mildly.

As he opened the door into his suite at the Stevens Hotel, he stuck out his hand with a grand smile and said, "Come in Harold, I am glad to see you, my you look just like your picture." Instantly I was completely relaxed and at home with him. Mr. Carnegie had the ability of putting people at ease. Two weeks later, I went to work for him and began what has become more than thirty years of the most exciting and enjoyable work a man could ever experience.

Until his death in 1955, I traveled with and ahead of Carnegie. So many people have asked, "What kind of a man was be? What kind of a personality did he bave? How did he treat his employees?" In this regard, I would have to say that he practiced what he preached. He was a very human individual. He had his faults. But courtesy and understanding were only two of his many vitures. The only times I ever saw Dale Carnegie angry were the times we would be driving through the country and we happened to pass a run down farm that had been allowed to erode and deteriorate. Then he would rise up in righteous indignation. He loved the land. He loved Missouri. Yes, he loved Belton.

Everytime I took him to Belton, Dale would ask me to drive down the main street. One time in a reflective mood be said, "My mother used to trade at that store," and a little farther down he said, "My father used to bank at that bank." Because of the memories it held, Belton was a very sacred place to him.

I have heard Carnegie lecture from Miami, Florida to Portland, Oregon, and I don't believe I ever heard him when he did not mention his boyhood in Missouri, the farms in Nodaway County where he grew up and his parent's farm at the edge of Belton. Dale Carnegie revered his parents as few people do. He was constantly referring to something he had learned from his mother or father.

He liked people. One of the most enjoyable evenings I ever spent with him was spent in Belton at a family reunion dinner of cousins and their families. He invited me to go along with him. There were 20 to 25 people there and most of the evening was spent reminiscing, reliving the experiences of their childhood. There were few times I ever heard Dale Carnegie laugh as much as he did that evening.

Simple things in life interested Mr. Carnegie. He liked to fish, he loved the country. Several times while we were visiting in Nodaway County, we walked from one of the farms where he grew up, across country to the Rose Hill School which he had attended.

He was a very retiring man, not timid, but realized that because he had written a book on human conduct, that people would expect him to be perfect in all of his relationships. He told me one time, "Before I wrote the book, 'How to Win Friends,' strangers did not seek my company. No, I was just Dale Carnegie, Forest Hills, New York, teacher of adult education classes. But once that book was published, I became so well known, people thought I should be perfect in all my relationships with other people. But not one place in that book do I say to do this because I do it, no, no. I studied men like Charles Schwab, Eddie Rickenbacker, Will Rogers and Jesus Christ, men like that who had made a great success of their dealing with people. The book is composed of things I have

learned from men far more successful in dealing with people that I have ever been."

"When I get with a group of strangers which I must do sometimes, I begin to realize that I am not measuring up to their preconceived idea of what I should be like—and it is embarrassing." Dale Carnegie is a greater man today than when he passed away 16 years ago.

His widow, Dorothy Carnegie, together with executive vice president, John Cooper who works closely with her, have done a masterful job in guiding the Dale Carnegie organization into an educational course of world wide fame. Mr. Cooper got his start in the Carnegie work as an instructor in Kansas City in January 1951.

It has been my privilege to visit Dale Carnegie classes in Tokyo, Manila, Hong Kong, Zurich and I had the privilege of instructing the first class held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1957. Since that time every Christmas, I get at least one or more letters from graduates of that class, telling me how the training has benefited their lives.

Now about two million people have taken Dale Carnegie's training. More than eight million have read his book, "How to Win Friends." Another million have read his book, "How to Stop Worrying and Start Living." Dale Carnegie is a Missouri farm boy who dared to do and he reached the heights.

One hundred years from now, Date Carnegie will be even more quoted than he is today because his simple truths of human relations will not change — because human nature will not change.



Dale Carnegie with Joe Yule, tather of Mickey Rooney, during filming of a movie.

The Truman Farm Home



The C. K. Frank home southeast of Belton

The country home of Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Frank, four and one-half miles southeast of Belton, which is located on a hill-top facing south was once the temporary home of former president Harry S. Truman and his family.

The United States patents to George W. Chewning were granted in 1848, the year the house was built. It was rebuilt around a southeast room in the 1880's by Isaac P. Dye.

It was when Dye owned the farm and had gone prospecting that the Trumans lived there. The former president was two years old at the time and his brother, Vivian, was born in the home in April, 1886.

During the Civil War some of the outbuildings were burned by Federal troops, but the house was not harmed. At the back of the house to the northwest is a storm cellar dating to the mid-1800's.

In 1916, Isaac Dye left the farm to his sister, Caroline A. Boren and her daughter Carrie Lou Sears.

In the same will, he gave enough hedge posts to fence the Alderson graveyard, located one mile northwest of the farm.

He also gave \$25 to buy number nine throughout, galvanized woven wire to fence the graveyard.

Carrie Lou and Andy J. Sears and their family lived here 16 years.

In 1946, the Frank's purchased the farm from Alfin and Katherine Phillips. They raised their three children, Brian, Clayton and Suzanne on the farm.

On June 13, 1971, the Cass County Historical Society erected a marker near the front of the house, noting that it was once the home of the former president. It was dedicated by Judge William M. Kimberlin of the 17th District Circuit Court of Harrisonville, Mo.

Special guests at the ceremony were Miss Mary Jane Truman, sister of the former president; and Fred Truman, son of Vivian Truman. John Curry, archivist in charge of book collection, from the Truman Library in Independence, Mo., was guest speaker and gave a history of the Truman family.



Marker erected by Cass County Historical Society



Miss Mary Jane Truman

The Beginnings . . .

The land that is now Belton - in fact all of Cass County - was once the home of the Great and Little Osage Indians.

The tribe relinquished part of their lands in western Missouri by virtue of a treaty made in 1808 at Fort Osage. But confusion existed until 1825 when the Indians gave up all their claim and rights to the remaining land not covered by the earlier treaty. The strip of land on the western border of Missouri and now within the limits of the counties of Jackson, Cass, Bales, Vernon, Barton, Jasper, Newton and McDonald became for the first time a part of the new state of Missouri, chartered in 1821.

White men had discovered the overland routes to California, Oregon and New Mexico just a few years before this and in the early 1830s the government opened the land south of the Missouri River to homestoaders, giving away land by the section, 640 acres at a time.

The land lying south of Kansas City, which was incorporated in 1850, proved to be a vast, fertile prairie and from states such as Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky the settlers came, Several families who have submitted histories for inclusion in this book have the original land grants in their possession. The early settlers were farmers, merchants, drivers of freight wagons to the west and many joined in the California gold rush in 1849.

The Missouri Compromise in 1820 had paved the way for Missouri's admission to the Union as a slave state while the territories to the west and northwest would be free states. But the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 turned over to the settlers the choice of whether these new states would be slave or free.

This act only inflamed the issue of the extension of slavery. Kansas became a battleground between the extremists of North and South. A ruthless border warfare crupted between the pro-slave "Border Ruffians" (also known as Bushwhackers) of Missouri and the free soil "Jayhawkers" of Kansas which lasted in various forms for 10 years.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 there were few families then living in the Belton area who were not affected in one way or another. Many of their fathers and sons joined the Confederate or Union armies leaving the wives and mothers to tend the homes and children.

In August of 1863 the border warfare had been particularly fierce. The Jayhawkers, also called redlegs because of their distinctive uniform stockings, raided and plundered in Missouri. From Missouri, William C. Quantrill led raids into Kansas. To compound the already tense situation a three-story brick building used as a prison for women who gave aid and comfort to the Bushwhackers collapsed. It was located at 1409 Grand Avenue in Kansas City. Four women died under the rubble including a young sister of "Bloody Bill" Anderson, a member of Quantrill's raiders. There were charges heard that Union soldiers had hastened the collapse of the rickety building by undermining the foundation walls.

Revenge came swiftly with the sacking of Lawrence, Kansas by Quantrill's men on Aug. 21. Four days later, Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing, 34-year-old Union commander, issued Order No. 11. The decision was to haunt him the rest of his life and possibly cost him a chance to run for the presidency of the United States.

The essence of this drastic measure was the depopulation, within 15 days of an area 30 miles wide and 100 miles long south

of the Missouri River on the western border of Missouri. It included Jackson, Cass and Bates counties and part of Vernon. The order affected some 20,000 persons in the area except those living within one mile of the limits of Independence, Hickman Mills, Pleasant Hill and Harrisonville and those living north of Brush Creek and west of the Big Blue.

Those who could prove their Union loyalty to the satisfaction of the commanding officer of the military station nearest their residence would receive certificates stating their loyalty. Those obtaining certificates were permitted to go to any military station in the district or to any part of the state of Kansas except the counties on the eastern border of the state. Only some 600 inhabitants remained.

Most of the families around Belton stayed with relatives in places like independence and Platte County, but some traveled to far away places like Texas, after salvaging what they could of clothes, personal belongings and livestock.

Then the plunder and devastation began. Horses and wagons were confiscated by the Union forces. Looting was rampant and torches were set to fields, and homes. The area came to be known as the "Burnt District" and for 18 months it was minhabited except by troops in transit. Reconstruction of the area was not started until war's end in 1865.

Stories of how it affected families in the Belton area are included in their individual histories in this book.

By 1870, most of the homes had been rebuilt, the farms recultivated, new settlers had come in and people had returned to the business of living again.

The growth experienced by the new town of Belton from 1871 to 1900 was indicative of a national trend. Those years saw the greatest migration in American history. The population west of the Mississippi increased from less than 7,000,000 to 16,000,000. Belton's population also doubled from 552 in the 1880 census to 1,005 in 1900.

After the golden spike was driven at Promontory Point, Utah in 1869 the east and west coasts were seven days apart by rail, but San Francisco was live months away by wagon train.

Belton of course grew up around rail lines and was the single most important factor in its growth, as the demand for grain and livestock increased nationally.

These years were also the age of invention and Belton was quick to take advantage of these too. The telephone was unheard of in 1870, but by 1876 there were 3,000 and by 1900 there were 1.4 million. Belton's first was installed in 1902, It wasn't until 1879 that Edison's incandescent lamp was invented and it was the late 90s before the electric light was beginning to make an appearance. Belton was availing itself of this marvel as early as 1910.

Even its forms of ontertainment were the same as the rest of the country. Belton's cultural life featured fairs with balloon ascensions, well-known circuses made slops here, and locally its recitals, opera house offerings and the like were all a part of the national scene.

The town survived the depression years of 1873, 1884, and 1893 and the grasshopper plague of 1874.

Even its many blacksmith shops were a sign of the times. They shod horses, manufactured nails, scythes, harness fastenings, pots, pans and plowshares.

The people who came were hardy, industrious, thrifty and were looking ahead to the future.

Jim Lewis Remembers . . .

James A. Lewis was born Nov. 7, 1878, the eldest child of John Franklin Lewis (Apr. 2, 1840 - Jan. 10, 1884) and Susan Mullen Lewis (Jan. 1, 1858 - Aug. 11, 1934). Lewis married Louann McPherson (daughter of Edward and Mary Alice Keeney McPherson) on Oct. 17, 1912. They were the parents of one daughter, Mary Alice Yeager, who is still a resident of Belton.

Both Lewis' parents and the McPherson-Keeney families were early pioneers in Cass County and the Belton area.

Lewis served Cass County and the Belton area in a number of capacities prior to his retirement in 1946. He served as a deputy sheriff in the Belton area during the late 1920s and early 1930s; was one of Belton's first Fire Marshals - when living just back of the fire station was quite an asset in the days of "central" and the communications system - as Justice of the Peace and later as Police Judge. One of Mrs. Yeager's early memories is when there was no one to go out on the fire truck with her father, she was allowed to ride along and turn the siren.

Lewis was a long-time member of the Belton Christian Church and was active, along with Rev. Tom Parrish, in establishing the first Boy Scout troop in Belton. He was also a member of both the Cass Co. and Jackson County historical societies.

He died Jan. 4, 1966; his wife Louann in 1965.

During the fifties, Lewis often was invited to come to the school to relate some of his recollections of early Belton. The children enjoyed his descriptions of part of the business district, the schools, and improvements such as the coming of electricity, gas, and paved streets. Interspersed were amusing stories told with sparkling eyes that hinted of personal experience.

When he visited a high school English class in the fall of 1958, the following narration was tape recorded. Combined with it are excerpts from a letter he wrote to the class on Nov. 8, 1958, noting facts he had not had time to give them.

Some of the events occurred before Mr. Lewis was born or when he was quite young. Before the recording began, Lewis had explained this to his audience and had said that he would attempt to tell such happenings as he remembered hearing them in his childhood. For this reason, some facts may differ slightly from those found in other parts of this book. Present-day searching of old records has uncovered additional information which appears in parentheses. Wherever possible, street addresses have been inserted so that today's reader can locate points of interest. Excerpts from his letter have been set on a smaller margin width than the main body of the text.

It should be emphasized that Lewis' memories are included here, not as an historical document, but as a means of dusting off some of the nearly forgotten episodes that made up Belton's young years.

----- Dorothy Looney

"We'll go back to the start of Belton. The first trading center in this community was two miles west of Belton, on 58 Highway, called High Blue. It is the highest point between Springfield, Mo., and the Liberty Memorial hill in Kansas City, 914 feet above sea level." (Relief maps show the High Blue corner to be close to 1200 feet.)

"Mr. J. V. Robinson and son came here from Kentucky and started a little inland community prior to the Civil War. There were five houses and a Christian Church on that corner.

"George W. Scott came here from Lee's Summit and bought 80 acres of land from a Dr. Tolbert who lived in Kentucky." (Land office records show that 240 acres were purchased jointly by George W. Scott and W. H. Colbern from Manzy Q. Ashby, of Kentucky, on Aug. 13, 1869, for \$9,000. Their plat of Belton, in the eastern 160 acres of that land, was dated Dec. 20, 1871.)

I'll give you the reason for that railroad being built from Lawrence to Pleasant Hill. Lawrence, Kans., was in a very fertile valley. Eastern capital sent scouts out through this country and up the Kaw River to what is now Kansas City. People located in that valley from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and other eastern states. There was quite an emigration to here all at one time. They had some money, and knew people back East that had money. People out here didn't have any. Folk today are lucky. They wanted to head off the Pacific going to Wastport Landing, which was at about 39th and Penn Street, That's where the old Westport town was.







Jim Lewis

This later became Kansas City. At 40th and Penn up over a drug store can be seen holes shot there by what they called mini-balls in the Civil War.

"These people than started this railroad from Lawrence to Pleasant Hill while the Civil War was going on. They came up to Belton from the Blue River valley. One-fourth mile north of Mr. Kessinger's farm (present Valley High development) was the station where this community got off and on the train after the road was constructed. The switch was there "til 1936, when I had charge of Mr. King's farm. I left the old switch stand lying beside the track bed. It was too heavy. If you could find it out there in the weeds, I'm sure that Mr. Kessinger would give it to some of you lads to bring it over and anchor it on the school ground. They don't have switch stands like that today.

"They built that railroad. A man and his team worked 10 hours a day for a dollar and a half. He fed himself and his team. This was during the Civil War. I got this from a man who had worked on the railroad." (Land transaction records reveal that on Mar. 19, 1870, Scott and Colbern deeded a 100-foot right-of-way approximately following to-day's Frisco tracks through the present town of Belton.)

The only people that I know that ever got off at that station were Dr. and Mrs. T. T. Garnett. He started the first drug store here. He told me this himself. He and his wife came here and got off at that platform station. It was called Rankin station. They had a little tin trunk and a few dollars and a leather bag with some pills in it. They came into Belton, and he was the first druggist and first doctor."

Belton is located on a ridge reaching to Lee's Summit. All water north of Main Street flows into Little Blue River enroute to Missouri River - All water flowing south of Main Street to Grand River, then into Osage River where it empties into Missouri River, 10 miles east of Jefferson City.

EARLY MAIN STREET

"Most of the buildings on Main Street were frame when I came here. I first came here as a lad one year old, and grew up on the corner where Clayborn Hankins lives (southwest corner of Cambridge and South Cedar.) The old timers estimate the population was 420. It was an awful long time pickin' up, Prior to World War II, the population was listed at 915.

"The Bank of Belton (324 Main) was built in 1884. The bricks for that building were made one-half mile north of Outerbelt Road (Highway 150.) It was in a brick building that sits on a hill on a slope about one-half mile north of Outberbelt and 71 Highway.

"The brick in the Star-Herald office (then 425 Main) were burned right straight south of here on the west side of the cemetery. They're soft brick. When I was about the age of some of you lads, we all had a pocket knife, and we drilled a lot of holes in the soft brick. You'll notice right on the corner several red brick that have been added because mischievous boys whittled tham out with their pocket knives.

"Now, we've had some fires on Main Street. The worst disaster we had was in 1888. Those were all frame buildings (on the north side of Main, west of Walnut) and on the corner where the Citizens Bank stands, (325 Main) was a grocery store owned and operated by Mr. Duncan. The buildings were heated with stoves in those days. One cold night be banked the fire a little too high and didn't hook the door tight. Some hot coals rolled out on the wood floor, and that block was destroyed."

Trees on Main Street; three along side Bank of Belton; two in front of Robinson and Son (400 Mainbuilding burned). The entrance was set in to give room for limbs. One of front of Parrish Grocery (410 Main); two along east side and one in front of Star-Herald building (425 Main). In 1902 trees were removed for concrete sidewalks.

BUSINESSES NORTH SIDE OF MAIN

"In the block where Mr. Dryden's drug store is (401 Main) were all frame buildings. A for is 24 feet wide. Mast of the buildings were supposed to be built on the line. We had everything from little buildings that looked like checken coops and lean-to's in that block. The one that is occupied by Werner's Restaurant (421 Main) next to Mendor's slore (423 Main), if you take the tim off the top of the front, in white letters that high is the word saloon?

"There were three saloons here when I was a lad, We had lots of trouble. Nobody had money. They'd be arrested and have a fine to pay. The two blocks on Main from Ella to Chestnut were paved with rocks that men had to beat with a hammer to pay their fine. They had a box 28 inches wide, 12 inches deep, and eight feet long, when you beat enough rocks to fill the box, you were allowed two dollars and a half credit on your fine. I have the hammer that was used to break those rocks. It was just the shape of a doughnut with a handle and a beveled edge. You could break rock with it faster than with a flat-faced hammer,"

Belton had a weather flag pole 60 feet high near corner Dryden's drug store. Various colored flags were flown, indicating kind of weather expected next 24 hours.

Lumber yards: G. W. Hope Lumber Co., Walnut and Commercial, first was Farmer's Lumber Co., occupied three-quarters block where Cheyrolet Motor Co. now stands (now home of police and fire departments). Later store building remodeled for home. Sold few years back to Walter Groh and wife and moved to corner tot across street from school building for a home. (810 Walnut)

BUSINESSES SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN

"Now then, I'll tell you a little about the businesses in that block (west from Walnut) on the south side of Main Street. The The Bank of Belton (324 Main) wasn't built until 1884. Next to it (320) was a two-story building, not very big. It had a leanto on the side, where Uncle Sim, the groceryman, kept a carload of barrels of salt, I worked for him for four years as a delivery boy. I was the first delivery boy in this town. Mrs. Clayton and her daughter, Nadine, had a millinery shop and dressmaking in the back room. Later Mr. (Russell) Turk had a grocery store there.

"Next was a vacant space. As I told you a while ago, they

didn't crowd up.

"In the other block, (west from Ella) one building (420 Main) ran from Main Street to the alley. The back end was up off the ground on posts. That was Sandy's Barrel House. Do you know what a barrel house is? On each side of the full length of that building were racks about a foot off the floor where he kept barrels of whiskey, wine and everything.

"We had some younger people that were a little mischievous. Everything was delivered to the merchants by what they called a drayman. We had three draymen. Merchandise would be unloaded on the railroad platform nearly every morning in the week, half a block of it, head high. It would take 'til noon or after to get it all delivered. A couple of mischievous lads conceived the idea of helping this drayman unload two or three barrels of that wine and whiskey. They went in the back door and rolled the barrels to the left, and placed them. They went back that night, crawled under the building, measured off the distance and took a big augur and bored a hole up through the floor and through the bottom of a barret. They drew themselves off five gallons. They had fixed up a plug and drove it into the barrel and saved the old man some of the liquor, but the boys got five gallons.

"The next place was a little shoe shop owned and oper-

ated by J. C. Hyer (418 Main).

"Then there was a little, oldbuilding stuck in, about where Russell Mutten in later years had his business (416 Main).

"Next was the Hawthorne grocery store (414 Main). That building was built by A. C. Hawthorne, a pioneer merchant. It was just one story high and had two little windows in the front. Mr. Hawthorne came here off a farm and borrowed some money to start in business. He made a nice accumulation in his lifetime, was very successful in business.

"The first telephone ever installed in Helton was installed in Mr. Hawthorne's grocery store in 1898 by Sam Thornton. (According to the history of telephone service elsewhere in this book, the first phone was installed in 1902 in Hawthorne's home.) Quite a few of you know him. He lives back of Bonson Lumber Company, across from Mrs. Gene Looney (403 H Street). At one time I lived neighbor to Sam's sister and husband in Kansas City. At that time Sam was teaching at Manual Training school at 15th and Paseo in Kansas City.

"The Shaw Hotel (408 Main) had three rooms on the ground floor and one up. In that one little room there were four beds, no partitions between. You could get a bed and stay all night for 75 cents for supper, bed and breakfast.

"The new merchants kept coming in here when Belton was starting. Prices weren't the same at all stores. The merchants thought they should call a meeting and try to get the prices regulated. They had their meeting, Uncle Jerry Robinson, a pioneer merchant, had moved his store from High Blue to the Pay Hardware corner (400 Main). Uncle Jerry had two fronts on his store. He had half the store for dry goods. In the center was a circle counter. On the other side you could get hats, shirts and soits. The counters must have held four or five hundred suits of clothes. It was a big store.

"At this meeting that the merchants called, they invited Uncle Jerry Robinson to attend and discuss prices. Someone asked Uncle Jerry, since he was the oldest merchant, on what

percentage of profit did he sell his goods.

"'Well', he said, 'I don't know anything about percentage, but I do know when I buyboots for a dollar a pair and sell them for two, I'm making money!' Uncle Jerry didn't have to know much about percentage.

"People got to going to Kansas City on the nine o'clock daily, they called it, and did their trading. After a while it put these men out of business. The merchants now-days have the same competition. It's hard for them to survive."

The square stone in corner of City Hall Park (northeast was corner) was used as a style block in front of J. V. Robinson & Son store during horse and buggy days.

CITY JAIL

The city jail had two cells. It was built at the corner of Hackberry and Commercial Streets. Then when the city acquired the property where City Hall now stands, the jail was moved to City Hall park. The city council used the front part for meetings. The mayor would meet the city clerk on the street and tell him to make his records show the council met and all members were present. In bad weather the mayor and council remained at home.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS (Plenty)

First under canvas on triangular lot west of Paul Wyatt's filling station (Dave Rents). Second on corner now occupied by Sinclair gas station. Building moved west and now known as Hotel Belton. (torn down - part of new Bank of Belton building now on lot.) Third across street, body shop. Fourth, Henry Mucke- recently torn down (site of Belton Animal Hospital), Fifth Krause shop where City Hall now stands. Sixth, John Parrish on east side City Hall where large stone set on corner property line. Seventh, J. D. Long shop on corner of Haptist Church property (west side) at Cherry and Main. (Now Bank of Belton property) Eighth, country shop four miles south of Belton, known as J. C. O'Deil corner, operated by a Mr. Spellman for years.

BUILDINGS MOVED FROM HIGH BLUE

"There were several buildings moved here from High Blue. I'll tell you where some of them were. There was a little building Mr. Robinson lived in at High Blue. It was brought and set in the alley back of Mr. Robinson's dry goods store on the corner. He lived there until he built a nice new home where E. E. Hawthorne now lives on Scott at the west end of Main. (110 So. Scott) That little house back of the store was moved to the northeast corner of Second and Cherry where Fanny Keeney lived most of her life, That would be 201 Second St. (torn down in 1971)

"Another building sits straight east of the Methodist Church on the opposite corner. Two rooms of that house

came from High Blue.

"My sister owns a home on the northwest corner of Sixth and Second Street, The two front rooms were moved from High Blue."

CISTERNS

"Cisterns were an oddity in those days because people thought you had to live along streams to be near water. The first distern that was ever dug in Belton was dug at 519 Second Street, next door east of where I live. People heard about it. They didn't want to live along the crick. You'd be surprised at the number of people that came here to look at that distern. It was something they hadn't seen nor heard of around here."

Belton had many cisterns and wells. Along Main Street's two blocks, there were three cisterns. Very lew know where they were. (I) large one under floor, corner room of Fay and Son (Western Auto) (2) Rear of Star-Herald (425 Main), square cement block covers old cistern (3) one in shed at rear of Meador's drug store (423 Main).

PUBLIC WELLS

"Belton had a lot of public wells in the early days. One was at the crossing of Main and Ella in the center of the street. They drew water with buckets and a rope. There were troughs on all four sides so the farmers could water their teams at the same time. It was about 35 feet deep. It was covered up about 1884 or 85. They put short railroad irons across the top, down about three feet deep, then covered it with dirt. Very few people in Belton knew that well was there until they came to dig to put in sewers. They ran into those iron bars. They took them out and filled the well up, and the sewer runs right through the place.

"There was another public well back of Catron's Furni-



'Picture of the old school house where I first went to school. It stood east of the Methodist Church about a block, on the S. E. corner of the block. There was four rooms, two on the ground floor and two above. Miss Lou Jackson was the teacher of this room, the second room.

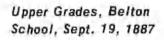
----- Mrs. Susan Blair

Shown in this 1887 picture are first row Susie Bruner, Mary Berry, Nora Rush, Ora Keeney, Kate Brown, Della Knoche, Mrs. Jackson, (teacher), Nellie Johnson, Leona Meyers, Cleo Aker, Jessie Garnett, Nellie Green, Laura Dever, Second row, Frank Dever, Joe Degan, Leslie Lee, Cora Weyer, Dora Knoche, Laura Hawthorne, Nell Finley, Edith McNutt, Lillie Long, Etta Boggs, Effie Moore, Susie March (Mrs. Susie Blair), Frank Marcus, Frank Varney, Taylor Bowers, Third row, Herschel Arnold, Billey Willey, Yeager Muir, Jim Lewis, Dox Carr, Virgil Smoot, Ira Dawley, Walter Pettus, ---- Duncan, Ernest McPherson, Loring Lee, Joe Pettus, Fourth row, Tuttle Carr, Jerry Farmer, Adam Casper, Sam Johnson, Hackert Reynolds, Warren Haley, Tom Smoot, Clarence Reynolds, Horace Carmical, Scott Muir.

THE BELTON CORNET BAND

1894

Pictured (1 to r) are C. V. Reynolds, Jerry Jerard, Jack Parrish, Art Rouse, Dr. Upton, Dave Parrish, Jim Oldham, (sitting) Mort Reynolds, Clyde Idol, Ernest McPherson, Charles Wells, Wes Wells, Huck Davis, Tom Hughes, Tom Watt, Frank Harrelson, John Scott in window, Will Keeney, Joe Wirt and Floyd Grimes.



CORNE

Names discernable on the back of this picture also taken in 1887 of the upper grades are Tommie (?) McPherson, Jack Parrish, Charles Folk, Charlie Long, Eddy Miller, Chet Slaughter, Dave Parrish, Gertie Robinson, Marie Park, Julia Casper, Edith Swanche, Nellie Powell, Vance Garnett, Florence Dunnsamann, Louis Boren, Stella Smoote, Cassie Johnson, Prof. Henry J. Smith, Annie Haven, Agnes Green, (?) Ames, Jessie Carmichael, Prof. Smith died in Belton, March 20, 1889.

- 24 -

ture (319 Main) by the railroad, another down on Elmer Wyrick's corner (417 C Street), and one in front of Dr. Tracy's house on the northwest corner of Third and Ella. That pump is still there.

Another well was under the Belton Dry Goods company (322 Main) At the rear of the little tot's sale room, the rear foundation arched over a well and can be seen today.

"Down on Baldwin Avenue north of that little pump station you see there (near Spring Street) was a spring in the middle of the street. They say they dug it out and walled it up about 20 by 12 feet and pumped 40,000 gallons of water out of it a day. The state Board of Health came in and found fault. It tested all right, but they said it could be easily contaminated. They closed it up and disconnected the pump. It wasn't costing very much to get 40,000 gallons. They were saving about \$8.20 a day by pumping that spring."

SCHOOLS

"There wasn't any money to speak of in those days. When I was a boy if I worked all summer, I raked up maybe 16 or 20 dollars — enough to buy a pair of shoes and get started to school.

"The first school house that Belton ever had was on the northwest corner of Cedar and Second St. It was a four-room building. Mr. Scott gave the school board the land (at Walnut and Colbern) in order to get a school building. The bond was \$5,000 for a new six-room brick building. I don't know how many times they voted on it because they thought it was too much money. The old building was about ready to fall down, so finally the bond carried. It was where the 'Ag' building is now (newer part of seventh grade). It was torn down about 10 or 12 years ago.



The Belton Masonic Lodge laid the cornerstone of the new school building under the direction of the Right Worshipful Brother F. E. Bybee, District Deputy Grand Master of the 36th Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Missouri on July 6, 1888.

"The colored people had a colored school on the threecornered vacant tract at Fifth and Herschel. There were about 18 to 20 scholars. The Andy Walker family, a colored family, were nice folks, and Andy took his children to Lawrence, Kansas so they could finish college. The daughter became a school teacher in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The son, Jim Walker, was connected with a Lawrence, Kansas firm."

HOMES AND SIDEWALKS

"When I first came here, there were two houses, a colored church, and the school in these blocks near the Scott and Walnut corner, All over town would be half blocks with no houses."

Horses, cows and pigs, also chickens: Barns, poultry and pig lots stood all over Belton. Man living on three city lots would have teams, one or two cows, one to three hogs, one or two dozen chickens, one or two dogs, also a garden.

"There were no sidewalks when I started to school in the new building (near present seventh grade). Only occasionally when some man could afford it, he'd buy some two by 12 cypress timber, which was very reasonable at \$12 a thousand. Today it's about \$200 a thousand. They'd lay down three boards. To show you a sample of it—if you know where Weeks' apartment is at the corner of Sixth and Second, there is a stone slab laid in there for a sidewalk. At the end of it the neighbors had a wooden sidewalk. For years when they came to the place where the slab started, people walked out in the grass in Dr. Garneti's yard."

STREETS

"There were no graded streets here until 1880. They were just like a pasture--when they weren't dry, mud was six to eight inches deep. Finally they bought a grader and graded them. Then they began to oil streets. Finally Belton voted some bonds and payed the streets of the town. That's they way we come up from mud to payed streets. It was a long journey, taking several years, but Belton's got a right nice little town."

FAIRGROUNDS

"We've had two fairgrounds here. The first one was just south across the road from Grace's factory. Later on they bought the Ives Reid addition. (See article about fairgrounds elsewhere in this book.) The second fair grounds were there. (Memorial Park and acres to north). The fair ceased to operate in 1905. Lightning came and struck some telephone wires, burned a barn, and two people were killed. We've had no fair since then. We had good fairs with big attendance. Lots of people came out from Kansas City.

"There was one group of wholesale men in Kansas City. They rented a 'tallyho' that would hold 16 or 20 people. They hitched 6 horses on that and drove out here from Kansas City to the old fairgrounds. I saw them 2 or 3 years. They came every year. One year there came an awful downpour of rain. No, mind you, there were no rock roads in those days. Anyway, they were on their way home when they left here. I presume they stopped at some little store and stayed til they got more teams and finally got back."

ANECDOTE

"I might tell you a story about a good old deacon in a church here in town. He never missed a service, always sat on the right hand end of the front row. He usually was asleep. This one night he dreamed he was in a runaway. His team had run off and fell down and was all tangled up in the harness. When they did that, the men used to jerk out their pocketknife and cut the hamstrap and things so when the horse got up, he'd be free of the harness. The deacon was doing all right--wasn't disturbing anyone, when all at once he yelled out, 'Cut the hamstraps and let 'em up!' ''

FLOUR MILL

"The flour mill was no small affair. It was a large mill 3 stories high with a dust chamber on top. It had a steam boiler in the basement. It was as long across as this room (about 30 feet). The fireman was named 'Baldy' Pitcher. He was a



Students and Teachers of the African School, 912 Ella Street

great singer. He led singing at the churches. He had a tuning fork. You know what a tuning fork is? Two little steel prongs with a handle. He used it to get the key to the song. This was before we had organs here."

(Apparently, the flour mill was on the northeast corner of Baldwin and Mill Streets. Abstracts show George Failor and W. H. Nigh purchased two lots there on January 15, 1878 for \$200. Nigh sold his balf interest to J. W. Hill on June 31, 1883. On February 7, 1888, Failor and Hill sold the land to J. M. Price. The mill is thought to have been built and operating during those years.)

"The men who operated the mill all three lived on the same corner (Walnut and B Streets). Mr. Baldwin on the southwest corner (404 Walnut), Mr. Nigh on the northwest corner (Home Lumber Company), and Mr. Failor on the north-

east corner (403 B Street)."

(In 1878 George Failor purchased four lots on the northeast corner for \$100 from Scott and Colbern. The Failor name was imprinted on the sidewalk leading to the house that was probably his home on the property. The house still stands, having had some remodeling done.)

frAt that time there was no Peculiar, no Cleveland, no Grandview. The Frisco railroad hadn't been constructed at that time. When they built that railroad, it ruined the mill.

"Now, people didn't have money. They'd take their wheat to the mill to have it ground. They paid what they called 'toll' to have it ground. The mill kept all the bran and 40 percent of the wheat flour. Bran in those days sold for 40 to 50 cents a hundred, in a new sack."

ELECTRIC COMPANY

"Belton's electric light company had quite a story. Mr. Bert Homan and Mr. Lee Harker started it, Mr. Harker was born and raised on the Cavanaugh farm west of town. He didn't know much about electricity. Mr. Homan had been manager of the telephone office and he had learned how to connect a circuit. They bought an electric light plant and moved it into the brick building on Main Street across from City Hall (torn down, about 511 Main). Two 18-year-old boys came out from Kansas City and built the smokestack. It speaks right well for two 18-year-old boys.

"They installed the plant. While the business was operating for about two years, Mr. Harker put the wiring in all the houses,

crawling around in the cobwebs in those attics, He finally got discusted and sold his half out to Mr. Homan."

(Records show that these men were partners. In 1911 Bert Homan purchased an undivided half interest in lots 2, 3, 4, 5 of Block 34 - location above - from John Newman. In the next year D. L. Harker purchased the other half interest from Newman. In 1914 Homan sold his half interest to Harker.)



"I moved back to Belton from Kansas City on November 10, 1917. I never had been in the plant. I went in to visit with Mr. Homan. He said he'd like to sell the plant.

"I said, 'The city should own it.'

"He said, 'Jim, I wish you'd take it up with 'em. See if you can get it sold.'

"I went to see the mayor. It was all right with the mayor. I went to see an alderman, It'd be all right. But I ran up against something when I tackled the second alderman. I explained the whole story to him as best I could.

"He said, 'Jim, we can't own it. Why, we'd have to pay somebody seventy-five dollars a month to run it!' You know what they pay now, about 4 or 5 hundred. If they had bought that little light plant, I expect they'd have had enough to build the school house without a bond issue. It was a big mistake they made and they see it now.

GAS COMPANIES

"We had two gas companies in Belton, both owned by local men. Joe Goodbar lived on the north side of the railroad, George W. Scott fixed on the south side. Mr. Goodhar had 3 strone was wells where the road makes the curve just this side of the Jackson County line on 71 Highway (North Scott), Mr. Scott had some wells on his property where Nell Lake is now, Also, be had 3 wells west of the Prisco railroad. They agreed that Mr. Goodhar would furnish gas for the north side of town. Mr. Scott, for the south. The price was two dollars a month the year round, for all you wanted. They had no regulators or meters, it's very important you have a regulator on a gas line. At night the pressure comes up. The pressure came up several times and burned 2 or 3 houses down here in Belton. For fuel, that was awful cheap —\$24 a year.

"Well, my mother and eister were gone. They'd written me a latter they'd be home at such and such a time. I kind of brushed up the house a little bit, that's at 602 Second Street, and lit the gas in the cook stove and went to town. When I came back, the cook stove, except a little down on the legs, was red hot. If I had stayed another hour, there would have been no

house there."

BLACK BOB RESERVATION

"Now we'll see what the country around Belton was like. Four miles west of Belton on the Kansas line was what was known as the Black Bob Indian Reservation. Now, where there was an Indian reservation, you'd find makeshift while men hanging around waiting 'til the Indian got his pay check so they could beat him out of it. Three of those fellows that hung around the Black Bob reservation came inhere and sot too much of that Barrel House liquor. The sidewalks in Belton were wooden and spring-wagon-high above the street level. When you'd drive up in a spring wagon, you could stepout on the sidewalk. Their horses were tied along side the Bank of Belton. They got on their horses, jumped up on that sidewalk at the corner by the Citizens Bank and commenced to shoot through the awning from there down to Home Oil Company.

"They never could find a local man that could handle the job of policeman. They went to Kansas City and got a policeman by the name of King. He was 6 feet 6 inches tall, I knew Mr. King well, and I knew all about the shooting. He went over to the Bank of Belton, untied the lines of a horse with a saddle, and took but after the three men. He caught them out west of town near Bill Hargis's addition. He brought them back to Bolton and took them up before old Uncle Billy Young, the old justice of the peace. He fined them \$25 a piece and costs. They were terribly insulted. One man that lives at Stillwell, Kansas, said he would never come back to Belton again. Through all thuse years, I never knew of him coming back. He kept his word, which suited the people all right.

"This was all open prairie south of here and west. A great many people from Jackson County would send a boy or hired man out here with maybe 50 or 100 head of cattle to put on the free range. My father came here with 75 head of cattle for two years. He was raised four and a half miles east of Independence, near the Salem Church. He drove these cattle out here and put them on the range and boarded with a family named Hogard. Ozzie Pugh lives there on the old Hogard place now. It was there that my father and my mother met, and that's

how I happened to be a Lewis."

CIVIL WAR ANECDOTES

During the Civil War, my grandmother Mullen lived on a seven-hundred-acre homestead south of Belton in a four room log house, 2 rooms upstairs and 2 down. Overhead were rafters made of small trees cut out of the timber and boards on that for floors. The war had been going for quite a while. She had a 5 dollar hill, all she had, stuck up over head among those rafters.

"This is a long story, now, It starts with Quantrill and Jim Lane. Jim Lane was from Lawrence, Kansas, and led the Red Legs. He and his gang would come in here from Platte, Clay, Jackson, Cass, Johnson, Bates, and Vernon counties and raid the community, burn the houses, take all the livestock they had, and drive them back to Lawrence, Kansas.

"Jim Lane came along by Grandmother's one morning, going off to the southeast, and set her house on fire. He stuffed a straw mattress underneath the corner and lit it, and started on with his men. There was man with him that happened to know Grandmother. As he rode by, he spoke very low, 'Elizabeth, get a rail and pull that straw out from under there and save your house.' So she did.

"Up stairs in the house were two grain sacks full of shelled corn to take to Pleasant Hill to the mill. That was where they went to have corn ground before this mill was built in Belton. Lane wouldn't let her take it out. He let her have one featherbed, and she had already slipped around and got hold of her five dollar bill.

"Well, the house didn't burn.

"That night at twelve o'clock Jim Lane and his men came back on his foraging through the country. He saw the house badn't burned, so he set it aftre the second time. It was twelve o'clock at night. Grandmother had this one featherbed and her five dollar bill. She took her children to the big honey locust tree out back of the house. She laid the mattress down and put those children on it. Then she walked from there across the prairie in the night to two miles north of Stillwell, Kansas. There she got two owen and a two-wheeled cart. She came back in the morning and picked up the children. She then lived in a house just west of Stillwell til after the Civil War."

AUNT CINDY ALDERSON'S HOUSE



"There were on section line roads then. If you wanted to go south of Belton 4 or 6 miles, you went over to the old mill and followed Grand River down to where it went. They didn't have bridges. You followed the water line. You got about two miles south of Belton and crossed a road there and went on down to what they called Aunt Cindy Alderson's, a good old southern lady. Everybody called her Aunt Cindy. She had a mammoth log house. In back of that was the kitchen and dining room 30 feet long. She had a log smoke house, and they killed from 15 to 25 hogs every winter, At Cindy's they'd eat the hams and shoulders. She cooked lots of greens or cabbage with bacon. When anybody ran out of meat, and wanted to borrow some, they'd go to Aunt Cindy. She'd cut off half a side of bacon and give it to them, If they had a big family, it would be a whole side. That was the condition back in 1860-65 and before the Civil War."

"Now, I'm getting just a little tired, I appreciate the opportunity to come and speak to you folks."





The Grandstand at the Old Belton Fairgrounds on the Site of Present Memorial Park

These words of an old song typify the carefree gaity of early settlers on fair days, which provided a welcome break from pie suppers and fish-frys.

Before the turn of the century, Belton was a hub of activity in late summer. Sports-minded people loaded families and picnic lunches into wagons and set out across country toward the fairground in Belton. Some came from as far away

as Westport Landing, later Kansas City.

Tradition has it that the first fairground and race track was on the south side of Mill Street across from the Grace Company, though no concrete proof has been uncovered. However, Mrs. John Perry remembers her father, W. N. Evans, speaking of it, Jim Lewis speaks of it in his memories and Glenn Harrison said he remembers attending a fair there as a small boy. "The grandstand faced west overlooking an oblong race track about a quarter mile in length. To the south of the grandstand was a dug well with a pump on it, a wooden platform over it and a lot of tin cups fastened to the pump with small chains. The cups were made by John McCarty, sheet metal worker, who trained my brother (W. D. Harrison). In the northeast corner of the grounds was a large barn used to house the animals for display, and several other buildings were on the tract of ground and also several bored wells giving the fairgrounds an ample water supply. To the west of this barn was a small creek that ran to the south and down about 300 yards. Dan Colbern, son of W. H. Colbern built a large lake with two large ice houses on the north side. You can see the outlines of the lake to this day and Belton had ice when the winters were cold enough to make ice six or eight inches thick. It was about the mid-nineties that something had to be done because the buildings, built partly of native lumber were deteriorating at such a rapid pace they were becoming dangerous. Because the grandstand faced west the heat was almost unbearable in the late afternoon."

That Belton held fairs many years prior to the turn of the century is evident, however, from the following ad appearing in the issue of Aug. 14, 1896 but, apparently, there was no organized group directing procedures.



The Roman Standing Hippodrome Race Belton Fair, August 18th. to 21st.

Eventually a group of city fathers decided to set up an official fairground for Belton.

The Belton Fair Association was incorporated on Aug. 15, 1891. The president was John Bales; the secretary, R. J. Mc-Nutt. At that time the association purchased from Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Robinson 34,05 acres "and other lands" on the east side of town of Belton for \$3,405. This land approximately included the present Memorial Park and adjacent acres to the north, (See Belton Plat. 1895)

During the next ten years, the fair attracted large crowds;

many buildings were erected; but profits were small.

According to abstracts for the land, on Dec. 14, 1901, a petition was filed in circuit court for the "voluntary dissolution of the Belton Fair Association."

The assets of the Belton Fair Association consists of a fraction over 39 acres of land adjoining the city



Belton Fair Directors (I to r) Bill DeWees, Charlie Clark, John Bales, Frank Robinson, P. I. Wallingford, 'Doc' Evans, Rube Masten, Bill Yost, C. W. Eaton and Jim Hale.

of Belton . . .; four barns, each 30 by 100 feet; one barn 20 by 80 feet; one shed 20 by 60 feet; one building 14 by 24 feet; one building 30 by 40 feet, one leanto 10 by 14 feet; one judges stand 10 by 12 feet; one Band Stand 10 by 12 feet; one Amphitheater 30 by 100 feet; fence around a half mile race track; money in the hand of the treasurer, \$48.32.

Liabilities . . . are \$2,400 secured by a deed of trust on real estate . . . bearing interest at the rate of seven percent per anum . . .

The authorized Capital Stock of the Belton Fair Association is \$5,600 divided into shares of \$10 each.

The reason for the dissolution; "because of the lack of patronage of the general public and the heavy depreciation of its capital stock below its par value."

The corporation was dissolved, and trustees were appointed to "settle the affairs, collect the outstanding debts and divide moneys among the stockholders." They were John Bales, president; R. F. Mastin, vice-president, C. W. Eaton, treasurer; W. A. Hill, secretary.

It is evident that the city fathers did not give up easily. On July 14, 1902, the New Belton Fair Association was organized "for the purpose of encouraging and promoting agriculture and improvement of stock." On July 23, 1902, the New Belton Fair Association bought the same real estate for \$3,632 from the Belton Fair Association, the trustees having cleared it of debt.

The new association met with little financial success. Lightning struck during a show, resulting in the death of two people.

In the fall of 1971, the "Bits and Pieces" column of the Belton Star-Herald carried the following description taken from an early newspaper account of the tragedy which appeared in a 1908 Cass County history book.

A heavy rainfall, accompanied by thunder, lightning and wind struck about 3 p.m. on a September day in 1905. A rush for shelter was made by a thousand or so people inside the fairgrounds. The buildings were connected by telephone wires and when the lightning bolt hit, nearly everyone was stunned and many were thrown to the floor. "Several women fainted, children screamed, the fowls in the poultry hall were in an uproar, and many teams of horses fied to fences in various parts of the grounds were crazed with fear and broke loose from their fastenings. At the same time flames burst from the roof of the art hall."

Meanwhile at the race track grandstand, some 400 persons watched as the horses were being driven onto the track in preparation for the trotting races. The lightning felled some of the horses, but other than some women suffering from fright, no one was injured.

Back at the art hall though, two people were dead. One was J. L. Post, a Belton businessman, and the other was Mrs. Walter Cleveland, a Negro woman, who was still clutching her uninjured baby.

At the time of the Star-Herald article, Mrs. Kathleen Barnes, who had been a young girl in 1905, told the editor that the fairgrounds contained not only a race track but several exhibit halls, sheds and stables.

She remembers standing at the gate of the park when the wagons brought out the dead. At that time, fashion decreed that women be completely covered, long dresses, stockings, etc. Mrs. Barnes says she vividly remembers that the force of lightning had split Mrs. Cleveland's stocking and as the wagon passed by, Mrs. Maude Hawthorne, in a gesture of womanly concern, pinned the stocking together.

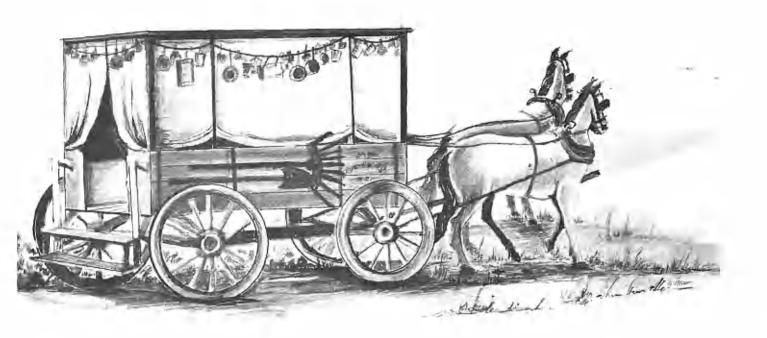
The Board of Directors of the New Belton Fair Association at the time it dissolved on Dec. 6, 1906, were as follows: W. N. Evans, president, W. A. Hill, W. E. Yost, Fred Bright, William Dewees, J.D.L. Jones, B.N.W. Jones, J.P.L. Jones, Wallace March and W. P. Houston.

Finally, on Dec. 22, 1906, was filed the bill of sale of the land for \$6,000 to W. A. Williams, thus closing the chapter on the history of Belton's fair associations.

Belton's importance as a center for fairs did not end then, however. Many are the reports of various gatherings of the sort on vacant lots, first in one part of town and then another, as the years passed. Temporary tracks were roped off for horse shows, and booths were set up for displaying garden produce, canned and baked goods, quilts, and other "fancy work", and of course Belton was on the Chautauqua circuit.

As late as the early fifties a "fair", consisting of a carnival along with booths set up by local merchants to display their products, was held on the grounds of Memorial Park. Apparently this was the latest attempt to revive the old custom.

Gone were the prancing horses, the garden vegetables, the fancy work. But once again resounded the happy call, "Hi, ho, come to the fair!"



Traveling Merchants

By Glenn E. Harrison

In the days before good "farm to market" roads were taken for granted, general stores on wheels served the outlying districts. They carried mostly dry goods and some even traveled on foot with packs on their backs. Glenn Harrison remembers "They were built according to the fancy and ability of the merchant who used them to ply his trade. Fancy signs were painted on the sides of the vehicle advertising his wares. They were heavy, strongly built and large, often pulled by Persian horses."

Harrison attended the old String Town School House in Section three, Aubry Township, Kans., torn down several years ago. Classmates of his still living are Mrs. Roy Rosier, Mrs. Walter Smith and his brother William D. Harrison of Belton. Tom McKinley of Belton also attended the same school.

"One beautiful morning in the fall of the year," says Glenn, "on our way to school we noticed an object ahead about as wide as it was tall. We boys raced ahead to investigate and lo and behold it was a little old man with packs all over him. When we came up he began to take off his packs placing them around him on the ground. As I look back, I believe the bewhiskered man had some apprehension as to what might take place from a lot of mischievious school kids. But he was wise in the ways and likes of the urchins of this period. As the girls came up he took a small pack from one of his coat pockets and gave us each a piece of candy."

In wagons similar to the one sketched above by Margie



LLA TOTT : EX FAMIL A TUSTORY GENTEA

The String Town School House

McKinley Dimick, one side was packed with dry goods and the other with groceries and hardware. There was a place to sleep but often when the merchant would arrive late at a farm house he would trade supplies for lodging. If rains came and the roads became too muddy, they would stay until the roads were passable again. Main Street looking West from Bank, Belton, Mo.



Shortly after the turn of the century, Belton's Main Street looking west from Main and Walnut Streets looked like this. The picture was taken sometime between 1902 and 1906. Nathan Goodbar was said to have had the first automobile in town, an Overland. Down the block on the left with the curved roof was a livery stable and a competing stable was just across the street. The group with the horses was identified several years ago by Howard Huggins. Left to right in the wagon was Frank Miller; on horseback, George Wyatt; on the load of hay, Bill Balding; next wagon, Howard Huggins and in the wagon at far right Curly Jones and Albert Ramsey. Belton continued to grow and thrive in the next twenty years, 1900 to 1920. Missouri was the fifth largest state in terms of population in 1900 with 3,106,665 people within her borders.

Belton was keeping pace with the rest of the country in terms of "new-fangled" gadgets and inventions. More and more cars appeared on the streets, garages opened up to service them, the movies were new in 1902. Belton had one by 1907. There still were no radios or electric ice boxes but people managed. Diptheria, typhoid and malaria were the principal causes of death, teachers were paid an average of \$325 per year, but then the cost per pupil was \$17 compared to \$472 in 1960. The telephone, sewing machine and typewriter were making changes in a life-style, eggs were 12 cents per dozen, sirloin steak was 24 cents per pound. It was an era of well-being, peace, prosperity and progress which came to an end with America's entry into World War I. Belton sent its sons off to fight and welcomed them back at the end of an era.

A Nostalgic Walk Down Main Street

By Kathleen Young Barnes

This is a view of our main thoroughfare -the struggles, crises and successes that took place within two short blocks.

At the turn of the century you would have found Miss Lutie Horine's millinery store on the northwest corner which is now occupied by the Hy-Klas parking lot.

My first recollection of "going to town" was accompanying Mamma on a trip to Miss Lutie's — Belton's first millinery shop which flourished at the turn of the century. And I still can see Miss Lutie, a plain, small, quiet woman whose only sign of emotion was a very pleading look in her gray eyes as a rambunctious youngster tried on her hats behind mother's back.

For all the finery in her shop — plumes, feathers, cabbage roses, malines and velvets — Miss Lutie never seemed to wear anything but a simple white cofton shirtwaist with high-standing black velvet collar and floorlength gray wool skirt. Her small face was unadorned by makeup and her salt-and-pepper hair was primly coiled in back, but with soft bangs in front. She was the creator, owner, saleswoman who let her bats speak for them-

selves

Going back to the same spot 10 years later, I was again tasting the joys of growing up for I was in Mrs. Kreigh's ice cream parlor. It was a warm Sunday afternoon and my cousin and I were enjoying our independence as well as the goodies, sitting there in coiled metal ice cream chairs at a table-fortwo. The sun was shining brightly through the west windows, framed by thin white cafe curtains, fanning in the breeze. And we didn't have a care in the world as we basked in the warmth and pleasure of the moment sipping our five-cent strawberry sodas.

Still on the west side of the street and two doors or so up was the hardware store of W. I. Williams, (formerly, Moseley and Gregg — before that, Mullen and Young). Here also were Mr. McCarthy, the tinsmith, a real craftsman who could create all manner of safety boxes for important papers, and John Thomas Keeney, small of stature, quiet of manner, a fix-it genius if ever there was one. His marvelous hands always



Main Street looking West from Ella Street - Between 1900 - 1920

could get cantankerous clocks to run again.

Next door was Will Rosier's grocery store, above which was a half with a stage (the Opera House) — site of all the local talent shows. My earliest redollection is of a minstrel show with Jim Lewis as one end man and Frank (Fat) Leonard as the other end man. All I can remember was that Jim took some big pliers and acted as if he were going to pull out a tooth for Fat but instead pulled out a big fat pink tongue —or so I thought it was. No wonder I forgot the rest of the routine! But at age four that made a never to be forgotten impression.

The upstairs hall later was used as a photography shop, first by Evans, then Bowman of Harrisonville.

On down the street was Rosier Dry Goods, now Murray and Esther Rosenthals' location. One could write a book about Rosier's and its successful "graduates"—among them, Vern Killinger and Will Ferrel who became J. C. Penney stockholders and associates and Walter Pettus Sr., who became senior manager.

Rosier's was a bustling place -- much merchandise beautifully handled -- with courtesy, dignity, forthrightness -no wonder J. C. Penney gained some of his associates from here!

Over the Bank of Belton were a dentist's office and a real estate-insurance office. Dr. Bailey took his practice to Hollywood at the beginning of the movie era's heyday and progressed up the professional ladder along with the movie stars. John Mullen and his son Russell developed their real estate and insurance business here and became pillars of the community.

South, across the street, was Uncle Jerry Robinson's hardware store — also a clothing store. This was before my day. When I first knew it, it was S. D. Sprinkle's dry goods store. Next door, was Dave Parrish's Grocery presided over by the matriarch, Mrs. Parrish. I still can see her large, strong hands counting out the candy, piercing dark eyes and unsmiling expression as she took your nickel for exactly a nickel's worth of your favorite sweets — "1 penny, 2 penny, 3 penny, 4 penny —5 pennies" —usually corn and red hots (each costing a penny a cup), a licorice stick, a sour ball and a chocolate. "And that's all," said Mrs. Parrish with great and firm finality.

The year 1904 is remembered for the Christmas fire at Mr. and Mrs. Jake Hixon's toy store, Even now we can see the bravery and courage reflected in Uncle Jake's face—he'd lost almost all and he must have been almost 70, but in those days one didn't rely on welfare and insurance—one had friends. And with their loyal support he salvaged what he could from the ruins

and set up shop in a little lean-tonext to Ed Hawthorne's store, just in time for Santa's arrival.

Somewhere around 1906 finds me in Mr. Hyer's shoe repair shop next door, on my way to school to leave a pair of shoes, and poor Mr. Hyer had something happen to him and he fell backward with his mouth full of tacks. I was so frightened



I dropped the shoes and never looked back to see if he survived — my legs feltlike cold cooked spaghetti but they managed to carry me on to first grade. I wonder what Miss Green thought had happened to me, for she much have noticed that I was unusually pale and quiet, in itself a noticeable miracle.

Next door was the post office where no one but the assistant postmaster wore Ben Franklin-style glasses. Not too much mail passed through then, so all the comings and going could be kept track of simply by "careful handling"—reading postcards and seeing who was writing to whom.

Now we arrive next to Earl Ferrel's paint store — in itself not an unusual institution, but the time of crystal radios had arrived, and Mr. Ferrel was very much involved with the assembling of radios for the community — priced at \$15 each.

As we stroll on across Ella St., we find ourselves in the town park — with beautiful big tall maple and elm trees, in a setting of thick blue grass. Park benches were provided and warm afternoons found all of them occupied.

On summer evenings we had the pleasure of listening to our town band. Only three members I remember -- Clarence Reynolds, Dave and Jack Parrish. This was the time of year



The Belton Band in 1916 on City Hall Stage. Some of the members were, Asel Hawkins, leader; Marty Bullock, Elmer Cunningham, Jack Parrish, Dave Parrish, Dewey Wells, Elmer Wyrick, Clarence Reynolds and George Groh.

for our ice cream socials, served with high layer cakes, (mixes had not yet been invented.)

To the rear of our park was a small calaboose, if ever used, I don't remember — however, I passed it with awe and respect. After all, someone might have been locked up inside. About 1910, the 4th of July festivities were held in the park,

and the park also was the scene of Belton's first basketball game, played by girls. The players wore light blue linen suits with full knee-length bloomers and sailor tops. As the participants understood the game, they were to stand back courteously while the opposing team attempted a goal shot. No rough and tumble stuff—that came later. I well remember Gladys Strahan



The girls practiced basketball on the school grounds with a 'peach basket.' The first two are Ruth Mendenhall and ——— Morris; the next two, Judith Calvert and Mildred Moad; the third, Linnie Akers and standing, Clarence Meador.

Williams as she played the game.

Later in the fall one year —and it seems this event was a benefit for the war effort of 1914 — we had a mulligan stew supper. The weather was sharp and crisp, perfect to whet appetites. The stew was served from an enormous black kettle set about where the base of the present water tower is. The fire was perfect with its bed of coals, and the men were constantly stirring and serving. I think the aroma still lingers — or would if it weren't for the trucks parked there now.

We move from the park to the city hall built in 1906. This



SCENES FROM BELTON
CIRCA 1900 - 1920





1. Sams and Meador's Drug Store, 423 Main Street after it had been remodeled in the early 1920s. They sold school supplies and the popcorn machine on the left was the first in town, Max Thompson took care of the machine. 2. M. T. and Susie Harrison with Mary Kathryn Keeney on 'C' Street in front of Wyrick's house about 1917. 3. The Hawthorne store - left is Fannie Hawthorne and Ed Hawthorne, on the right is A. C. Hawthorne. 4. An earlier picture of the drug store. Dr. T. T. Garnett is in the middle of the picture. 5. The first rubber-tired truck in Belton owned by Robert E. 'Curly' Jones. 6. The picture of the stock yards taken about 1911 directly in back of Main Street. The building lower left was the Hargis Grain storage.

building provided the oasis of our culture --basketball games, picture shows, poultry shows in which Bill Davidson was so active, taking many blue ribbons. It was here that Belton began to cooperate with the state to get Missouri out of the mud. The trip to Kansas City in Mr. Hundley's seven-passenger car took one and one-half hours time plus a strong back to withstand the bumpy road. The ruts were hub deep in many places and by the time you arrived at Emery Bird and Thayer's, it was debatable whether you could straighten up and be able to go about your day's shopping. The fare was \$1.50 round trip.

The real culture of the community took over with the

Sam's and Meador's drug store, was next door.

On up the street there's the Citizen Bank's earlier location, then Carl Ryden's shoe store. The accomplishment of this fine Scandinavian family were recounted in a Reader's Digest story of Lawrence Ryden's development of later paint for Dow Chemical.

We continue on to W. J. Bradford's grocery store which seems to me was in partnership with Simeon Dehoney. As we proceed north we pass the location of our first picture show which was owned by Lex Roberts — these were flickering silent shows at five cents a showing. Next, another livery



The Kansas City Auto Club has a meeting in Belton, March 20, 1910

recitals, elocution and chalk talks of the day. We were especially proud of planist Joe Sanders who later formed with Coon, a group known as The Black Hawks, among radio's first performers, broadcasting from the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago.

Mrs. Earl Ferrel gave the chalk talks, accompanied by piano, and Miss Sue Wirtham presented her elocution pupils. Especially remembered was Neva Grimes reciting, "Little Bobby Shafto."

The city hall also was the location for graduation exercises and baccalaureate programs.

Of the special entertainers who would come our way, one of the most dramatic was Blind Boone, a Negro piano player with no formal training but an amazing talent and an enormous repertoire.

Crossing to the east side of Main St. there stood the abandoned two-story frame schoolhouse which was Belton's first. It later was used as a granary, and still later this site after clearing held our first electric power plant.

The magic moment was planned for Christmas Eve, 1910. All the buttons were punched and Belton was lighted as it never has been since. The Great White Way was here.

But almost before we could get home from the big celebration, every transformer in town seemed to have burned out. It was some time before we had the power plant in operation again, and then our schedule was for lights on at 5 p.m. and lights out at 10 p.m. Eventually, we had electric service from 10 a.m. to noon each Tuesday so we could iron with electricity (the rest of the time we just used the old flat irons).

Close to the light plant was a livery stable and blacksmith shop, the latter run by Mart Jacoby and Mr. Ruch.

Going north on the east side of the street, there was the printing office of The Star-Herald in a location previously used by a bank. Dr. T. T. Garnett's drug store, later known as



Ready for a Fourth of July outing about 1910 is this group of Beltonites. In the driver's seat is Ben Harrelson and beside him Glen Rosier. The girl on the left in the back seat is Leta Rosier.

stable - these were most essential and Belton was well provided.

Next up the street was the skating rink, where afternoons and evenings the floor was full as young and old enjoyed this favorite pasttime. Previously the old rink location was used for tent shows — all the melodramas of the circuit were shown. We had by now come a long way from minstrel to melodrama — and the tent shows, filled two blocks, both sides of the street of our little town of Belton.







ALL AROUND THE TOWN BELTON 1900 - 1920

1. An ice storm played havoc with power lines in Feb. 1909, 2. A later picture of the Hawthorne store. On the left is Maude Yost Hawthorne with her dog, St. Louis; J. S. Sanders is behind the counter and barely visible in the rear is Fannie Hawthorne with a customer, Mrs. Edgar Idol. 3. Another shot inside of the A. Rosier store about 1905. Note the stools for customer's convenience. 4. Working on Belton's first concrete sidewalks, probably around 1910. Buck Sheridan, father of Maxine Hankins of Grandview had the first concrete mixer in Belton and laid out most of Belton's sidewalks. Her grandfather, Sheridan Whitaker is in the picture and was one of Belton's early marshals.





The calvacade that welcomed William Jennings Bryan to Belton in 1911. He is to left of picture with hat in hand near flag.

August would always find the farmers with the crops laid by, canning season most completed, and the Chautauqua arriving for a one-week stand, adding to our cultural experience with many fine speakers, entertainers and musicians. Probably our most illustrious was William Jennings Bryan. I can recall an August afternoon when the sun was beating down on the tent, creating almost an unbearable inferno within, and listening to the great orator — he never fumbled for a word or lost a beat with his palm-leaf fan, or failed to cool his brow with a wet handkerchief.

An important part of our summer recreation were the Sunday school picnics and fish fries. No one knew better how to manage the trench and fires along with the tubs of fish shipped in from Kansas City than Roy Rosler. The great flat pans browned the fish to just the right shade after it had been dipped in cornmeal. Long tables were provided for the many cakes — coconut, chocolate . . . you name it and it was there — shaded by black walnut trees and the cakes covered with mosquito netting.

Then there were the Sunday school basket picnics down on Grand River with wading and baseball alternating with the eating. It always seemed to be someone's luck to fall into the muddy creek, be pulled out and covered with a big apron until clothes could dry.

About the summer of 1904 — before our little town had progressed to Chautauquas — fairs were the big summer attraction. Needlework, baking, butter-making and other home crafts were displayed in an octagonal art hall which featured a cupola skylight. (At age four I was more familiar with the word "ark" than "art" so Ark Hall it was to me.)

The "Ark" came in handy, I recall, during summer electrical storms which always seemed to occur during fairs. The worst storm, and the one I remember most vividly, killed three people, including Uncle Cleve's wife, whose body was hauled away in a green wagon.

It was at the 1905 fair that I first saw cones for ice cream being made. They had been introduced at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The fluffy batter was placed on two 4" by 4" cast iron forms, similar to a waffle iron, allowed to bake a few minutes, and when lifted from the irons were formed into a cornucopia—ready for the ice cream hand-dipped from a freezer. This was a one-man operation, and a very busy one.

Another looked-forward-to summer event was the circus. The most memorable one for me was in 1912 because it was set up on the railroad right-of-way just back of our house on



'Uncle Cleve' in front of his home near entrance to park. Note his high silk hat on his knee.

Main Street. This provided an excellent opportunity to observe the performers practicing their routines and fired my ambition to be a performer of the arts. Little did I realize the intricacies of a tight-wire artist.

But our family's most memorable association with that circus came when father (James Young) went out to milk our pretty yellow jersey cown in the back lot. She wouldn't stand still, and finally father looked over his shoulder to see a big, brown bear lumbering toward him out of the chickenhouse. Both cow and father left by the gate simultaneously—and fortunately the gate was open. But that was one morning there was no milk on our table, and the cow was off in the distant pasture. The circus reclaimed their bear, and peace and tranquility returned.

1918 finds us at the close of World War I and the Armistice of Nov. 11th. The evening was cold and blustery and the night far advanced. The excitement in the square bounded by Dryden's Drug Store, Citizens Bank and the Bank of Belton with the burning of a big bonfire left us almost stunned with the joy of anticipation for those who would return and sadness for those who would never return. Thus we came to the end of a full and rich era, a short and industrious twenty years.

The Belton Herald

D. C. IDOL. Owner and Editor

finite red at the postoffice at fletting, Mo., as second whose matter as authorized by act of Congress.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE FINE PER YRAR Published Thursbuys timer back of Postoffice

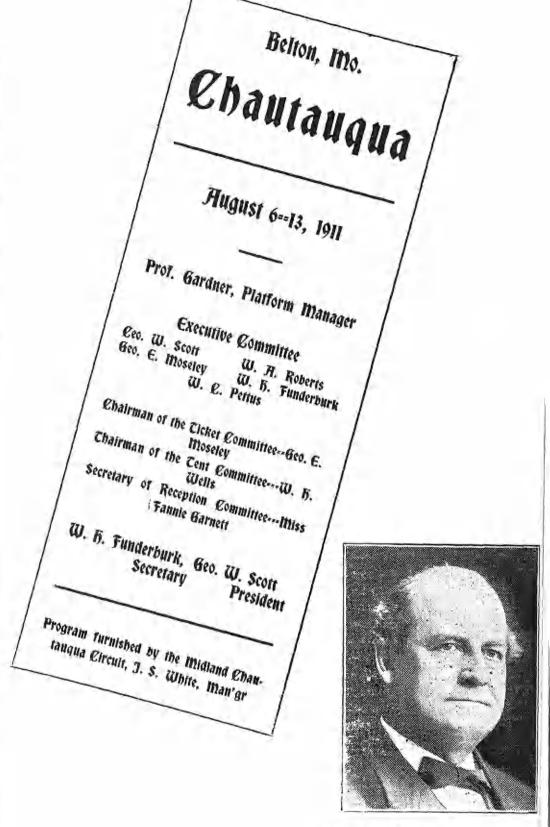
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1911

Cards and Resolutions a cears perfore. Locally cents per line first prevention, to afterwards. Black cap heads already one first first from a greenward. To plany one begins per reduming the Plante of posture to cents per column mich. Expel notweet locally larger. So displayed falten for the other per works per works focule, not less than 50 years per works focule, not less than 50 years per works.

The Sunday Session of the Chautauqua closed the meeting, the first that has been in Betton. But it will not be the last, for already 500 tickets are pledged for next year and this grand intellectual awakening will take place annually with increasing interest.

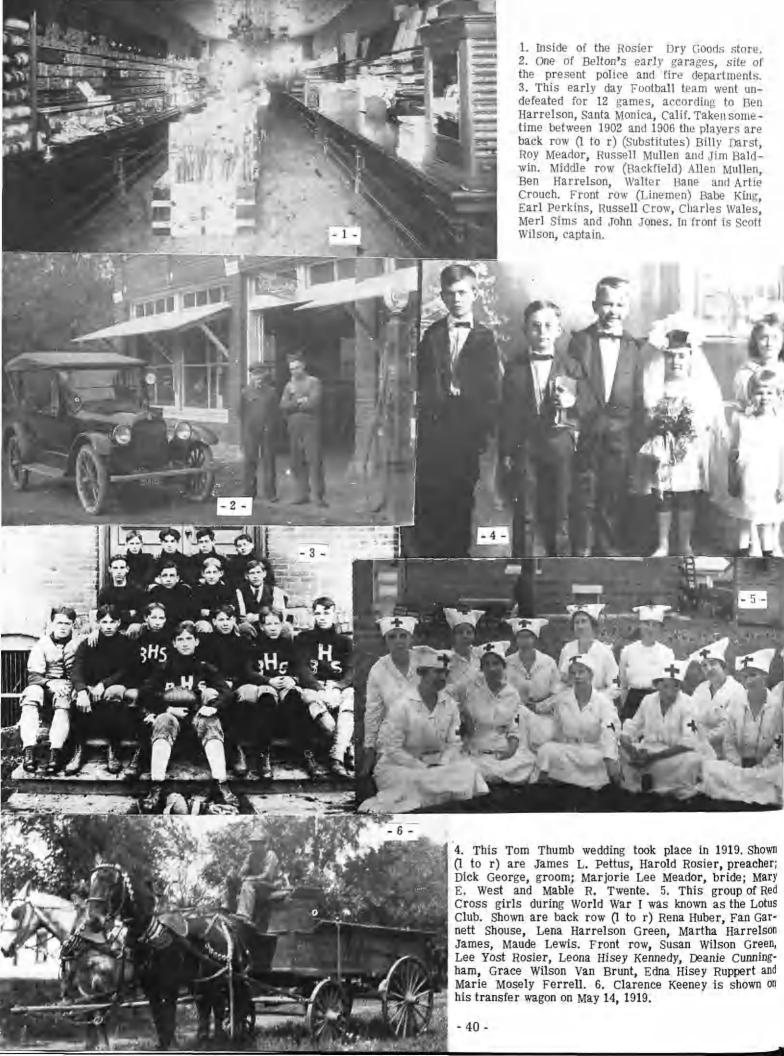
Large andiences greeted each speaker, but Bryan day -Saturday was a record breaker. The Great Commoner drew crowds of people from Pleasant Hill, Harrisonville, Raymore, Proeman, Drexel, Peculiar, Cleveland, Stilwell and Stanley, Kansas; Martin City, Hickman Mills, Grandview, Lees Summit and Greenwood, and from the farming region that surrounds the town.

Mr. Bryan came up from Butler on the Missouri Pacific and John LaMar met him at Harrisonville with his automobile and brought him to Raymore. Mr. LaMar was with the party and Miss Ruth La-Mar drove the machine. Near Raymore the party was met by a lozen automobiles loaded with enthusiasts, out from Belton, and entry to the town was made in state. After a tour of the city, Mr. Bryan was driven to the residence of E. E. Hawthorne, where the cavalcade was photographed by Wm. Davidson.



W. J. BRYAN

W. J. Bryan is one of the few great American statesmen who has risen above party politics to the lofty standard of a true statesman. He is a man of great personal magnetism. Once heard he is never forgotten, His speeches abound with poetry. Mr. Bryan is an outspoken enemy of class legislation and believes that the government has fully answered its purpose when it protects every citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and leaves him just as free as possible to exercise his ability, industry and economy,





The Smith-American Piano

By Glenn E. Harrison

Some time in the late seventies, a Dr. Shanks from Boston, Mass., came to Belton bringing his family and some personal belongings, among them a piano. His wife was an accomplished pianist.

The new home he built was standing until recently at the corner of Second and Cedar streets, Several years passed and his wife became ill and died.

My mother at this time was a student Kansas City, studying under a Professor Schulcy.

Because mother needed a piano at home to practice on, my grandfather, William Downing, bought the opera grand from Dr. Shanks, and moved it to the farm. Built about the year 1840, the ebony piano with ivory keys was a grand piece of mechanical perfection. (Incidentally, I placed my mark on some of the keys with a railroad spike in 1895 from what is now the Kansas City and Southern Railroad, which was being built at this time.) The piano weighed 1,750 pounds.

The history of the piano, as told to me by my mother, began in a theater in Boston. I can see in my mind as I write this article, the theater in one of the leading cities of that time where people of note often gathered.

At that time, the musicians were behind the stage, not in a pit as it is today. For special concerts the piano was wheeled out on the stage. There were no electric lights or coal oil lamps. For illumination, whale oil and candles were used. In such a setting, The Smith-American made her debut. She came of age in the opera in Boston. A few who were entertained by this wonderful instrument were Charles Dickens, Charlotte Cushman (who played the part of Romeo), John Greenleaf Whittier, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Edwin Booth, Mark Twain, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and many others.

Then in her youth, all shiny from the reflections of whale oil lamps as they danced on her side, she gave to the audience the sweetest and most soothing sounds. Sometimes they were as harsh and loud as she could produce.

Being a large instrument, it had a keyboard to correspond, with eight keys (an octave) extra. I have talked to many musicians about this and they say they never had need of them.

When she came into the Downing family, being the only

instrument of its kind in Belton, she was called upon to perform on various occasions. In those days, the community made its own entertainment by meeting in the school houses or in a large hall which was located in the 300 block of Main St. Charles Atkinson built two, two-story brick buildings on the south side of Main St. and a large hall was over these two buildings.

My aunt, who was a student in dramatics at the University of Missouri at that time, decided to make use of this hall by having entertainment. It was some task to prepare for this event. The stage and seats had to be built. The seats were two by tens laid on two by twelves set on their edges.

The big task was to get the piano up. Belton was blessed with some enterprising men, especially Charles Taylor and Arch Sprinkle, who built some of the old mansions that grace our community at this time. Charles and Arch loaded the piano in a dray wagon backed up to my grandfather's house (still standing on the north side of Main St. in the 100 block), then they backed it up to the stairway leading to the second floor which had been prepared beforehand by placing planks over the treads. Attaching a block and tackle from the piano to an anchor up the stairs, they wheeled her into place before the stage.

While in Columbia, my aunt had attended performances of Blind Boone, the famous Negro blind planist. She asked him to come to Belton which he did and gave a concert on the old Smith American. It was quite an event for the Negro community in Belton at that time since many of them were his friends.

In 1904, father and mother decided to build a new home on some landthey had acquired. In making plans they had to provide for the Smith American which, by that time, was in semi-retirement. A place was made in the reception hall for her and there she was placed in the year 1909. There she stood in dignity, often played by my mother in her last days.

Before mother died, she wanted a new plano. So, against the wishes of the family, a new one was bought from Jenkins Music Co. The trade-in on the Smith American was \$10. The last we knew the old pinao was sold at auction in 1939.

Where she is at this time I do not know, but God Bless her, she put me to sleep many times.



The Belton Depot prior to 1909 - The train is the K.C.C.& S., which was abandoned in 1935

Let's Build a Railroad!

By Dorothy Lane

In the Missouri annals of History, as early as 1836, we find the term "Agitation of Railroads", — meaning to arouse public interest in and put into action. The development of railroads in the west was to follow such a reckless, gambler-like and often troublesome course that the word "agitation" in this case could well apply to a broader and more common use of the word. Missouri and Cass County railroad history goes hand in hand with this development, influenced by the economy of the times and last but not least by the characteristics of our people. Before our country's first big business, the railroads, was to become established in the west, the integrity, intelligence and honesty of our forefathers of Missouri was certainly to be tested. Characteristic of man, sometimes they triumphed — other times they failed.

The Pacific railroad from St. Louis to the western line of the state was chartered in 1850, its name signifying its destination. However, it had only reached Sedalia by the time the Civil War started when construction was halted for two years.

The war brought setbacks and financial problems to the railroads. There was a decrease in their use resulting in less income and the cost of construction of new lines was more than had been anticipated. Railroads were targets of destruction from opposing forces and from bushwhackers. Contractors were robbed of horses, mules, and provisions. Sterling Price's raid on the Pacific railroad in the fall of 1864 destroyed bridges, buildings, truck tracks, tracks and rolling stock all the way from Franklin to Kansas City. In spite of all this, the line reached Pleasant Hill on July 19, 1865. The Pacific line was completed from St. Louis westward to Independence and from Kansas City eastward to Independence, connecting on Sept. 19, 1865.

When the Civil War guns were stilled, the Confederate veteran went home to a ruined land, whereas war time had brought growth to the North's industrial machine. The expansion of trade evidenced a need for more railroads, Counties and cities of Missouri were asked to vote bonds and issue them to organized railroad companies. Impressed by the millions being amassed by the financiers of railroads in the east, bonds were voted at every opportunity in a reckless spirit of speculation. Sometimes the railroads were built as planned, such as the first railroad through Belton, the Pleasant Hill & Lawrence Railway Company, Others were not built, such as the Tebo & Neosho railroad, and in this case Cass County struggled for years to pay the indebtedness, Millions of dollars were invested in early railroads, Bankruptcies and foreclosures were the demons lurking in the dark with some lines passing into the hands of receivers.

The spark of life was given to Belton's first railroad in 1865 in the Senate Chambers of Kansas by Sen. James H. Lane of Lawrence.

Kansas City had suffered during the war with its population estimated to have dropped to 3500 at the lowest count. Its trade was gone, the houses in poor condition, and the streets in need of repair. Kansas City's biggest rival, Leavenworth, Kans. had prospered with its population reaching a figure close to 18,000. This was due to several factors: Leavenworth was made headquarters of the Army, the hazards of the trail near Kansas City and the struggle between Northerners and Southerners in Kansas City itself.

The natural laws of commerce were all in favor of Kansas City but the same rivalries that ruled them before the war, still existed among a group of politicians in Kansas toward Kansas City. In an effort to secure the Kansas trade for Kan-

sas rowns an extensive railroad scheme was presented by Senator Lane. The scheme judluded a road from Leavenworth by way of Lawrence to the southern state line, and a plan to make Lawrence the eastern terminus of the Kansas Pacific railroad which was also the railroad Kansas City had been laboring for to the Gulf of Mexico, In a further effort to by-pass Kansas City, a road was planned from Lawrence to Pleasant Hill, Mo., which would connect the Pacific railroad there. st. Louis, feeling Kansas City was threatening her trade, tell into the trap set by Senator Lane not realizing that if would have resulted in Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas trade connecting with the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad euroute to Chicago, thus by-passing both St. Louis and Kansas City. Work was started on this Kansos road at Lawrence June 26, 1865. in November 1865, the Pleasant Hill and Lawrence road was surveyed.

In the next few years, Kansas City gradually claimed its own. The trade of the southwest states returned, and residents returned to their homes after the war. Steamers again began to ply the Missouri river, unloading 28 tons of freight at the

levee by the end of May.

The Pacific was open for business Sept. 21, 1865, and other railroads were pushing toward Kansas City. Kansas City passed its crisis when it obtained a contract with the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad to connect to that line. A bridge across the Missouri River was built making Kansas City a port of entry. Because of this progress, Leavenworth gave up the battle and abandoned the proposed Pleasant Hill & Lawrence railroad plan.

St. Louis sat up and took notice at Kansas City's progress and was spurred into action. She openly lostered the Pleasant Hill and Lawrence railroad scheme in March 1869, thus taking up the battle where Leavenworth had left off. The owners of the Pacific railroad were St. Louis people, therefore, this line was used to influence Pleasant Hill and other Cass County residents since the Pacific ran through Pleasant Hill at that

time.

According to the records of the Cass County Court, on Tuesday, July 13, 1869, an election was held in the townships of Big Creek, Mt. Pleasant, and Pleasant Hill to poll the wishes of the people to subscribe to stock of the Pacific Railroad Company (later known as Missouri Pacific) for the purpose of building a branch line from Pleasant Hill to the western line of the state, to be called the Pleasant Hill & Lawrence Railway Company. The vote carried and Pleasant Hill Township subscribed \$50,000 in stock, Mt. Pleasant \$25,000 and Rig Creek \$25,000. Raymore Township was not included in this first subscription but it has been noted they did subscribe to stock, apparently at a later date.

The first contract drawn was rejected by the Pacific railroad. The second contract was rejected by the County Court. The Pacific demanded the bonds on July 31, 1869 and presented an affidavit stating that the work on the proposed road had commenced in good faith, to be completed by Jan. 1, 1871. The attorney for Cass County objected, — objection was sustained. However, the County Court refused to grant the bonds with Judge Copeland of Pleasant Hill dissenting.

A group of people from Mt. Pleasant, Big Creek and Pleasant Hill townships then appeared before the court on Aug. 14, 1869 petitioning the court to comply with the "prayers" of the people expressed in the election of July 13. The order rejecting the contract was set aside, and the contract was ratified and executed. The bonds were to be issued upon delivery of stock in the Pleasant Hill & Lawrence Railway Company. Twenty-five \$1,000 bonds consisting of five sets numbered one through five were issued. Five bonds were due 15 years from the date of issue and five were due each year there after until paid. The interest rate was six per cent payable in gold. The bonds were delivered to the Pacific railroad and the stock issued as specified to be held in trust by the County Court. The levy set for Mt. Pleasant Township was eight-tenths of one per cent on all the real estate.

According to the 1917 History of Cass County, Mt. Pleasant Township bonds were later rated at about ten cents on the dollar (perhaps after the money panic of 1873) at which time a group of men from the township borrowed the money, bought the bonds, levied the tax and paid them off. This has not been confirmed by record. However, on May 5, 1879 A. C. Briant & Nathan Harrelson, as commissioners for Mt. Pleasant Township, appeared before the County Court to settle the bonded indebtedness of said township and presented to the court bonds with coupons attached.

These bonds should not be confused with the prewar Pacific bonds voted in 1857, the St. Louis and Santa Fe Bonds often referred to as the Bloody Santa Fe Bonds. Cass County

had more than its share of bond troubles.

Nothing was done with these prewar bonds until 1860. When the Civil War started three of the bonds had been sold. During the war, the remaining bonds were selzed from Cass County and turned over to the Pacific railroad. Nothing further was done about them until 1872.

A petition was presented to the county court in February, 1871 for the construction of a railroad called the Tebo & Neosho. The court issued bonds for this railroad within the month without the sanction of the people. This displeased the citizens of Cass County and steps were taken in an effort to prevent the funding of the bonds. The railroad declared bankruptcy and its assets were sold, with the road never being built.

Late in the evening on March 1, 1872, an order was made by the county court to fund the old Sante Fe bonds, bringing the total debt of the county to \$229,000. The court was promptly adjourned and the participating parties left town with the bonds and a plan to divide the spoils between them. The bonds were to be delivered to R. L. Stevens, general manager of the Sante

Fe, who was a contributing figure in the scandal.

Their action was quickly detected and sheriff Alexander C. Briant, notified. According to the 1883 Cass County history, Briant immediately telegraphed St. Louis offering \$1,600 for the capture of the swindlers. (This was a tidy sum as the county court was only allowing \$50 reward for the apprehension of a mule and horse thief at the time.) He gave his personal bond to secure \$174,000 worth of the honds that had been placed in an express office.

Within the next few days, Judge Forsythe and Judge Copeland turned themselves over to authorities. Judge Stevenson, realizing he would soon be captured, surrendered and was released on bail. The county attorney, named Cline, also involved in the theft was apprehended and arrested. The deputy clerk, R. Higgins, who had sealed the bonds with the county court seal was captured in Kausas City but committed suicide the same evening.

Stevenson and Cline were out on bail and continued to operate. Cline persuaded Thomas Dutroe, an alderman for the city of Harrisonville acting as mayor pro-tem, to sign \$5,000 in bonds for street grading.

This was the last straw. The county was seething. Stevenson, Cline and Dutroe decided on flight and boarded the

train at 5 p.m. going east.

The train was stopped at Gunn City by putting old plows across the track. Fifty or sixty masked menemerged from the blacksmith shop and confronted the train asking for Stevenson and Cline. Cline replied by shooting into the crowd, and was killed by a bullet when he tried to escape. Stevenson was killed in the baggage car and Dutroe died four hours later from a bullet wound.

The bonds were all retrieved and burned except No. 1 and No. 229 which were given to Harrisonville and Gunn City respectively. Number one still hangs framed in the Cass County Court House. A card in the corner says: "This bond is to be framed and preserved in a public hall, that the public servants of old Cass County may remember when they trample upon the rights of the people and refuse to hear their prayers, that they will appeal to a higher power and serve an injunction that will stick — which means — Death to Tyrants,"

An election was held in all the townships of Cass County on May 23, 1908 to determine the wishes of the people as to meeting the bonded indebtedness of the county. The vote carried allowing bonds in the amount of \$390,000.

The election judges for Mt. Pleasant Township were: J. A. Jaudon, John A. Marshall, H. H. Lacy, Ed Cloufier, R. M. Johnston and T. J. Stansberry. The election was held at the

old city hall in Belton, for Mt. Pleasant Township.

In view of all this, the residents of Mt. Pleasant Township should be justly proud of the integrity and determination of our early settlers in pushing the Pleasant Hill & Lawrence railroad to completion in 1871 and then paying off their debt by 1879. The stakes were high, but then the need was great, Before the train came, residents of the area traveled by wagon to Pleasant Hill once or twice a year for supplies. Sometimes the trip was made to New Sante Fe or on to Westport Landing by way of the state line trail. Doctors were as far away.

George W. Scott and Wm. H. Colbern must bave been well aware of the advantages of a railroad for they transferred a Deed for Right of Way, through what is now Belton, on March 19, 1870 to the Lawrence & Pleasant Hill Railway Company, some 21 months before the actual platting and dedication of the town.

This was a different railroad from the Pleasant Hill & Lawrence branch of the Pacific, but was later sold to and became part of the

same road.

The Pleasant Hill & Lawrence branch of the Pacific consolidated with the St. Louis, Lawrence & Denver in Nov. 1870, the latter having built the portion of the route from Lawrence to Corliss, Kans. (De Soto Junction). Bonds providing aid for the Kansas portion of the line, were voted April 6, 1869 in Johnson County, Kans.

There were four corporations of the St. Louis, Lawrence & Denver Railroad Company. According to records, the first corporation began the actual construction of the first railroad through Belton, and the third corporation completed the line about 1871. (See chart for

clarity)

The road that was built started at Pleasant Hill, proceeded west to what is now Raymore, west through what is now Belton, northwest through what was High Blue, crossed Holmes Road on the north side of what is now Mobile Holmes Village at 166th and Holmes Road, leaving Cass County at the northwest corner.

Lee Glandon was the first agent of record, arriving in Raymore in 1872, taking care of both the Raymore and Belton Station until 1884. A depot was built in Belton in 1871, which was a social center as well, being used by the Methodist Church for Sunday School until 1875. The newspapers were delivered by train and the depot was a gathering place to find out the news. The station agent would work late on days of national events, such as elections, to inform the townspeople of the results as it was received on the telegraph.

The train became the link to the outside world, and its arrival was an important event. Anxious passengers, as well

No.	Name	Incorporation	Succession
1	Kansus City, Clinton and Springfield Railway Company,	Under general laws of Missouri, Feb. 10, 1955;01 Kansas, Feb. 12, 1865.	
3	Kansas City, Clinton and Springfield Railroad Company.	Unite general laws of Missour, Sept. 6, leek.	Comparisdated with 3 to form 1, Jan. 26, 1844
2	Pleasant Hill and Da Sata Radress & ompany	Under teneral laws of Kanta Ope 16, 1827	
4	Saint Louis, Lawrence and Western Radroad Com- pany,	Seq 5	Sold at Investmente Feb. 23, 4877, in Frui Morrison, who, on the 14, 4877, Sept 44.82 inites to Tami 16.27 muses to Kanasa City, Topoka and Western Indianal Company, a predecessor of the African Topoka and South Fe (Enlancy Com- pany).
5	Saint Louis, Lawrence & Denver Bailroad Com- pany.	Under laws of Kansas,	Name changed to 4, Feb. 26, 1874
ď	Lawrence and Carbondain Railroad Company	Under Inva of Kansis,	Consolidated with 7 to form 5, Jan. 10, 1973.
7	Baint Louis, Lawrence & Denver hadrond Com- pany.	Nov. 14, 1870.	Consult fored with 4 to form 5, Jan. 10, 1873
8	Pleasant Hill and Law- rence Branch of the Pa- cific Rairoad Company.	Under general set of Mis- vitel, date unknown.	Consolidated with 5 to turn 7, white agreement dates Nov. 10, 1870, facil Nov. 14, 1870
9	Saint Louis, Lawrence win Denver Bustond Cour- pany.	Under Iner of Kansas, May 24, 1870.	Consolidated with 5 to form 7, under mire- ment dated Nov. 10, 1870, bled Nov. 14, 1870.
10	Bill Kalway Company	Curtor laws of Missouri, June 7, 1869.	Consolidated while to be been by under articles of consolidation dated Apr. 36, 1871, files May 24, 1870
II.	St. Louis, Lawrence and Denver Hadroad Com- pany.	Under general laws of Empas, July 40, 1865.	Constitution with in the form 4, under articles of command than decod Apr. 30, 1870, 21e. May 24, 1870.

Time Card PACIFIC RAILROAD OF MISSOURI

James Brown, President; John C. Porter, Treasurer; A. A. Talmage, General Superintendent; E. A. Ford, General Passenger and Ticket Agent; J. A. Hill, General Freight Agent; W. H. Patriarche, Supply Agent; J. W. King, Paymaster.

ST, LOUIS, LAWRENCE & DENVER (Leased by Pacific & Atlantic)

JUNE,	1872			LAWRENCE BRANCH				
Jefferson City Time								
: Pm	: Pal	Mi	Stations	: PM :	Alvi			
12:00	5:25	0	Pleasant Hill	6:30	10:50			
2 02	6 40	22	Bartleson	5:16	8:40			
2:22	6:53	25	Stanley	5:05	8:17			
3:10	7:23	34	Olathe	4:37	7:23			
4:33	8:07	46	De Soto	3:58	6:00			
5:22	8:25	54	Eudora	3:33	5:23			
6:00	9:00	61	Lawrence	3:10	4:50			
AM	Abi			AM	PM			

Time Cart of the first railroad through Betton, Bartleson station would have been in the vicinity of State Line.

as many onlookers on the platform, would check their watches to see if the northbound would be on time. Crates, baggage, mail and cans of cream were wheeled out for loading. The ghostly wail of the whistle would echo faintly across the prairies as the rails began to hum. The crowdon the vibrating platform would stand entranced while the monster approached with white steam hissing about the huge wheels, its bell clanging loudly. Freight was hastily transferred as passengers quickly boarded. The conductor would check his watch, the brakeman would raise and lower his kerosene lantern. The monster would shudder, begin to move and slowly rumble out of sight, billowing white clouds of steam. One of the biggest events of the day was past and some spectators could be expected to return to see who and what the southbound would bring.

The St. Louis, Lawrence & Denver became the St. Louis, Lawrence & Western on Feb. 26, 1874. The company was operated by its own organization until its property rights, and franchises were sold at a foreclosure sale on Feb. 23, 1877. In a deed dated Oct. 18, 1877, 44.82 miles extending from Corliss to Pleasant Hill was deeded to the Pleasant Hill & De Soto. This line was leased to the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe for \$75,000 per year which gave that company a short line to St. Louis, that promised to be of much value in the future.

The evaluation of the Pleasant Hill & De Soto Railroad Company as of Feb. 16, 1881 for the Cass County portion of the route was as follows:



George Crawford on cart and Clarence Peacock assisting -- "Meeting the Train."

22,31 infles main track at \$2,508.00	\$55,775.00
.55 miles side track at \$1,200.00	660.00
Cass Co. share of Rolling Stock	4,262.00
4 Hand Cars	100.00
I Section House, Z Depots, 2 Stock Yards	
1 Toolhouse and 1 water fruck	1,010.00

\$61,807.00

The Southern Kansas Pallway Company, a subsidiary of the A. T. & S. leased the line Jan. I, 1884 until it was sold to form the Kansas City, Clinton & Springfield Bailroad.

A stockholders report of the A.T. & S. in 1884 reported, "The Pleasant Hill & De Soto line had about earned its operating expenses, but was of no value to the Atchison Company except as keeping from its territory any unfriendly competitor. The Kansas City, Clinton & Springfield Hadroad having made a proposal to purchase the property under conditions which could not be injurious to the Atchison Company, the property was sold for \$156,975 cash."

This came about when E. J. Perry of Keith & Perry Coal Company in Kansas City dreamed of Missouri coal fields comparable to those in Pennsylvania. The planneeded a railroad, so he sold the idea to George H. Nettleton, the president of the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Memphis line. The railroad through Belton, the Pleasant Hill & De Soto, was bought by Nettleton on Jan. 20, 1885. He made it a part of the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Memphis system and named it the Kansas City, Clinton & Springfield Railway Company, alias the K. C. C. & S. In the declining years of the road, it was affectionately known as the "Leaky Roof."

Nettleton started laying trackage south from Raymore Junction through the Coleman community. The late George Parrott recalled the telegraph line running through the prairie chicken flight area located south of Coleman. Every day any number of these birds would be killed by flying into the telegraph wire.

Let us now bring the history up to 1885 on Belton's second railroad or what is now the St. Louis & San Francisco known as the Frisco's Clinton Culoff.

The beginning of this line took place in August, 1871 when the Kansas City Memphis & Mobile Railroad Company was incorporated. It had acquired some right of way between Clinton & Kansas City but no railroad was constructed. The right of way was sold at public auction in April, 1877 to John D. Bancroft of Kansas City as trustee. If was conveyed to the Kansas City & Southern Railway Company in Dec. 1880.

John I. Blair, New Jersey millionaire, became associated with the Kansas City & Southern in July, 1884 when he entered into contract with Frank M. Green and William Bailey of St. Louis, principal shareholders of the company. Bailey was

president and attorney for the Kansas City & Southern and Green was the contractor. The contract was for terms and construction of the Kansas City & Southern between the Chicago & Alton Junction east of Kansas City to a point near the Osage River, north of or near Osceola, Mo. The line was to be built and maintained by original owners of K. C. & S. until completion of construction which was to be within three years. Blair's plan was to build a railroad from Kansas City to Memphis and the Gulf, — it became known as the "Blair"

Then began the history-making race between John Blair with his Kansas City & Southern railroad and George Nettleton with his Kansas City, Clinton & Springfield. People in Belton were not aware of this race as much as those on the southern end of the line. Everything from horses to whiskey was bet on who would reach Osceola first. Blair built to the north side of the river opposite Osceola and stopped there, as the contract stipulated, ferrying his passengers and freight across the Osage. Nettleton built a bridge across the river and entered Osceola first. Disputes flared over the bets. It took almost as long to settle who won the race as it did to build the road.

The "Blair" line was completed in 1887 between Kansas City and Osceola. It entered Cass County from the north passing through Belton in a southeasterly direction, going through Harrelson and Peculiar. It crossed the existing K. C. C. & S. track in Belton south of present Memorial Park at a point in line with and south of Lillard Ave. This property was sold at public auction to Blair on April 21, 1891, who then organized the Kansas City, Osceola & Southern Railway Company. He incorporated it the next day and conveyed the property to the company on June 16, 1891.

Both rallroads were in stiff competition but the lines prospered for years. Great quantities of coal were found but it was not of the best quality for commercial use. In the glorious days of the railroads two coaches on the K. C. C. & S. would be crammed to the doors with passengers each day bound for Kansas City from Belton and other towns down the line, to return late in the afternoon. There was "The Peddler" local merchandise train, so called because it peddled all along stopping wherever there was a hen on the fence, as the saving went. It would leave Olathe at 5:30 in the morning with the car to be opened first so full of merchandise that part of it would have to be unloaded before the men could crawl in. Carloads of cattle were shipped each night on the stock express from the stockyards up and down the line. The stockyard for the K. C. C. & S. in Belton was on the north side of the 600 block of Main Street where the school buses are now parked. The stock yard for the K. C. O. & S. was at the southwest corner of Commerical and Chestmit Streets where a Jaycee Park is now located. Before the Kansas City market was established, stock was shipped to the St. Louis Market,

Mahlon White in the book "The Leaky Roof" recalls that the circus traveled by train in the old days and in one instance the elephant was being transported behind the tender. The engine ran dry as they were pulling into Mastin, Kans. The elephant had become thirsty, stuck its trunk in the water tank and drank it dry. I guess you would call that running out of fuel.

The late C. A. Duggins, a former conductor on the "Leaky Roof" recalled an incident in the 1920's when a heavy snow storm blanketed the area. A train became stalled just outside of Belton enroute to Raymore. Another engine was sent to help and before it was over five or six steam engines were also stalled. How do you get steam locomotives out of snow drifts? The end of the story we do not have, except the snow plow in those days was the man behind the shovel.

As for how the "Leaky Roof" came by its nickname; one of the largest industries on the K. C. C. & S. route was the sewer pipe plant at Deepwater. A large number of old cars with bad roofs were left on the siding there because water would not hurt that product. Occasionally the flour mill would find

these old cars on their siding and it took a dim view of shipping flour with leaky roofs. The name remained and the railroad is referred to as such by the natives of this area to this day.

An option was granted the Frisco on Nov. 4, 1897 to buy the Kansas City, Osceola & Southern between Bolivar and Kansas City, which included Belton. This option was excercised on June 1, 1900, thus securing for the Frisco its first railroad into Kansas City. Strahan 1898, Agents for the K. C. O. & S., were V. D. Skip-worth, 1895 and C. O. Campbell, 1895-1900. When the new Frisco depot was built to serve both railroads, it was managed by one agent. L. J. Strahan remained as agent from 1900 to 1917. L. M. Walker was agent in 1917, Theo. Hart, 1918-1931 or later and a Mr. McLin, 1934.

Freight transfer services were a vital necessity in conjunction with the railroads. At one time there were two in

Frisco Depot with Frisco train on the track, Picture was taken by Sammie Feeback probably sometime in the 40s. The Depot was torn down in 1964 and replaced by the present small one.



Miss Florence Smith of Belton, daughter of John Newton Smith, moved here as a young girl in the summer of 1900, Smith came as the section foreman for the recently purchased Frisco line. Miss Smith says there were two depots with cinder platforms at that time. The Frisco depot (formerly K.C.O.& S.) was at the same location as the present Frisco depot. The K. C. C. & S. Depot was located where the Buerge Elevator is now at 507 Walnut. (See 1895 town plat in front of book for depot and track locations.)

Both depots were torn down sometime between 1900 and 1909, and the big Frisco depot was built with a wooden platform. When Perry Houston was mayor, he persuaded the Frisco to replace it with a brick platform. The depot consisted of a section for passengers where the women and children waited. The telegraphy section was the gathering place for the men passengers, the train men and freight men. In later years a freight warehouse was built on the west end of the depot. Then there was the coal house, and the "his" and "hers". A tool house was built, which is still standing or rather leaning, along the tracks on the west side of Chestnut. A building that housed a cream station at one time is still standing at the southeast corner of Walnut and Commercial streets.

Our senior citizens recall the railroad turntable, where they played as youngsters, located on the southeast corner of 58 Highway (North Ave.) and Scott Avenue.

Miss Smith also remembers on Sunday during summer months, the Frisco line would have excursions from Kansas City to Clinton. The train would arrive in Belton between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. for a rest period and to take on passengers. The tourists would spend the day in Clinton and return through Belton about nine in the evening. The Kansas City passengers often made jokes of the small towns along the way and this irked the railroad men.

The Dummy train came along in the early 1900's to replace steam engines on branch lines. It was gas powered, thus requiring a smaller crew and proved to be more efficient. The first car contained the engine and crew, baggage and mail section and sometimes a smoking lounge for the men to smoke their cigars so as not to distress the ladies. The second car was the coach for passengers.

Lee Gladden was the first agent of record for the first railroad from 1872 to 1884. Early agents for the K. C. C. & S. were J. E. Lockwood, 1890; W. F. Bill, 1891; J. O. Pender, 1892; E. E. William, 1893; O. Ray, 1895-1897, and L. J. Belton. Abe and Sam White were owners of one and Willard and Howard Huggins were owners of the other around 1910. Abe and Sam White sold to Clarence Keeney. Howard Huggins became the sole owner of their service in 1916 and sold it to Millard Kennison in 1918. Tom McKinley, still a resident of Belton, bought it from Kennison and sold it approximately seven years later to Ernie Shirk. Shirk retired the Dray wagon for the truck. McKinley tells us there were three kinds of wagons; the water wagon, a wagon for freight and coal, and a wagon called "running gears" which could be used for lumber or with the dump bed on it used for sand and grit.

Motor transportation on 71 Highway built through Cass County in the middle 1920's took some of the business from the railroads through Belton. Realizing the income was not there to support two lines, the Frisco bought the Kansas City, Clinton & Springfield on Sept. 1, 1928. Employees of the Leaky Roof believed the Frisco bought the line with the intention of junking it.

The depression of the 1930's brought about the final petition to abandon the line, on the basis the two railroads paralleled each other too closely. Thirteen towns were to be left without a



The Dummy Train, 1914. Kathleen Barnes remembers her class in 1911 boarding the first dummy train at 8:30 a.m., spending the day at Swope Park and returning in the evening.

railroad: Raymore, Coleman, Kimpton, Daugherty, Garden City, Creighton, Urich, Hartwell, Collins, Humansville, Fair Play, Aldrich and Eudora. Even though everyone had poked fun at the Leaky Roof, they screamed to high heavens at the thought of abandoning it, but to no avail.

After a half century of service, the "Leaky Roof" made its final run on May 29, 1935. There was a touch of irony in its last load of sixteen cars of gravel and sand to be used in

highway building near Urich, Mo.

Many people in Belton remember when the steel rails were taken up and sold to Japan in the late '30's, to be shot back at us in bullets in the 40's. A small portion of the line had been abandoned in 1916 consisting of 7.8 miles of track. The Belton to Olathe section had been abandoned prior to 1935, at which time Grandyiew had become the north terminus of the line.

When the K. C. C. & S. was abandoned, the agent at Creighton, Jack W. Looney, was transferred to Belton as agent for the Frisco line. He was agent here from April 1935 until his

TIME TABLE XANSAS CITY, OSCEOLA & SOUTEERN

RAILWAY



.....LOWRT CITY.....

OSCEOLA

4 45 M 9 30 FM 112.3

9 10

4 15

General Manager. Cunton, Mo.

104.7

I. POWELL.

Time" Fir and Pass, Act.,

Xambas City, Mo.

7 6 6 18

6 00 AM 7 00 AM

death as a result of a home fire in December of that year. His widow, Gene, presently resides at their home at 403 B. Street.

George V. Crawford was agent at Belton from 1936 until his retirement in 1957. He started his career with the K. C. C. & S. in 1911 and had served as agent in Raymore, Creigton, Garden City and Grandview, having learned telegraphy from Jack Looney. During World War II he received the notification telegrams of our war dead, including that of his own son. Crawford and his wife, Nellie Pearl, are both deceased.

E. J. Jones was agent here in 1958 followed by a Mr. Gilbert. There has not been an agent here for several years.

The last passenger and mail train through Belton was on May 27, 1954. When city officials and other citizens along the route participated in the last run, Mike Spear, grandson of then Mayor George Spear, may have been the youngest passenger, being two years old at the time. Belton started receiving its mail by truck the next day.

	RAI	LROAD	TIME	TABLES
	1 500		27 4 501	//HEDA
	No. 3	Passenger Passenger.		// HERN,
	J. No. ave		Colores - ca	2 5 H 1 1 10 11
	No. 8 L	HESCHIEUF.	19444 (4974	. 6:13 pm
	Nos. 1	and 7 done	Est to a second	7:45 a m
	1	ALL DIC SALTA COL	7 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -	Dillian
j	At Kanso	gh to all pro F from [E4] on M. K. do we Chy. we all Western strable roa	The City	Also to
1	hinde for i	ill Western	Ty hest of	A Clinton
1	West.	ill Wystern Sirable 1910	E for peo	plu gaing
1-		d. 1.	K KESLER	Agent
1	K. C. CL.	NTON &	ODD.	
No.	102 Pass 136 Frei	Norman Senger train ght the Expression	TRINGFI	ELD.
1		1.17.28	Acres Bills	12 11 m
No.	101, Page 135, Page	somin, enger ght	0:04	m. m.
105.	bren,	sourit, enger tht	12.0	# n m
J. Allerson	510.77	10 30.211	0.00	1. Po. /
I want	of dally	reserved d	willy Non	too /
live sh	pass mgm	urday. No	+ 134 does	134
engers	when tick	retud, w	III carry p	nea
_		0	RAY. Agent.	1

Early day timetables. At left, 'The Blair Line' 1894. On the right, Belton schedules as they appeared in the Belton Herald, Nov. 27, 1896.

Appreciation is expressed to the following people for statistical information used in this article, Gri Sweet, regional manager, The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Co.; Harry E. Hammer, Missonri Pacific Lines and Martin M. Pomphrey, St. Louis, San Francisco Railway Co. (Frisco).





George Crawford at telegraphy desk of Frisco Depot.

Last passenger train through Belton, May 27, 1964

According to James A. Williams of Lee's Summit, a former Railway Express messenger and joint baggageman on the Frisco, the "mixed train" started operating in 1954 carrying express, freight, some mail, including carloads of baby chickens from Clinton, and passengers. The passengers, if any, rode in the caboose. The mixed train stopped running in Sept. 29, 1966.

In early papers reference is made to Adams and Wells Fargo Express Companies. Adams was formed in 1841 and Wells Fargo in 1852 for the purpose of handling express in transit. They first operated by stage and steamboat, and in later years traveled on the trains eventually merging into the Railway Express Agency.

Williams also recalls the Railway Express messenger, H. C. Freeman, that was killed in 1959 south of the city park by a bullet striking him in the temple as he rode in the caboose having a cup of coffee. Youngsters were target practicing in the area and a stray bullet found its unfortunate victim.

The big Frisco depot outlived its usefulness and in early 1964 wrecking crews removed it. A small one car garage size building replaced it. Former Mayor Bob Jones obtained the bricks from the platform, which are presently being used in the construction of his new home on 58 Highway.

Once upon a time there were from 10 to 12 trains through Belton daily. The train service in Belton now consists of one southbound train arriving between 8:30 a.m. and noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and one northbound arriving abound 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Freight may be shipped by the car load only.

In the busy age of fast cars and sleek jets, one hardly notices the train when it passes through town now, except for the howling of the dogs when the train whistle hurts their ears. It makes one think of the cry of the coyote on the prairie, the first signal of an approaching train at night even before the human ear could hear it.

Natives can't help but feel a touch of nostalgia when they drive by the present small Frisco depot with the disarray surrounding it, —an unjust monument to the glorious past of the Iron Horse. All is not lost, as long as someone, somewhere remembers the day when everyone built a railroad.



Howard Huggins transfer service. Shown (I to r) Huggins, Ben Crouch, Albert Ramsey, unknown, Nelson Mullen and John Hyer. Frisco platform with tool shed is to right and Fred Ruch's black-smith's shop on Main St. is in background. (New police and fire department building. 323 Main)

Belton Theaters

By Dorothy Looney

Down through the years theaters have provided a variety of entertainment for Belton audiences.

As nearly as can be determined, Belton's first "opera house" was upstairs in the building now at 423 Main. It seems the programs tended toward drama rather than opera. Traveling troupes presented plays which have taken their place in this country's history, among them: "East Lynne," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and "Ten Nights in a Bar Room."

Lingering in the memory of a few present-day residents are enjoyable evenings spent at another upstairs theater over 316 Main. Presentations included light-hearted minstrel shows,

plays, and piano recitals,

About 1903 silent movie theaters were emerging across the country. According to Mrs. Kathleen Barnes, about 1907 Lex Roberts operated a silent movie in the building at about 323 Main, next to the present Citizen's Bank. Cecil Wyatt Bundy, now living in Kansas City, is said to have provided a piano gackground music. Often music blared from the horn of a graphophone to add to the excitement of the amorous lovers and villans of the "flicks." Mrs. Frank Mosby recalls being one of only three females in the audience one evening when she was about eight years old.

Sometime before the summer of 1911, Clem Mahan joined Roberts and the location of the movie house was moved to 403 Main St. (Now part of Dryden's Drug Store) Jim Campbell ran the gasoline engine that powered the projector.



Willard Huggins and Dutch Taylor parked outside the ''movie theater'' in the summer of 1911.

The meeting room of Belton's City Hall was the setting for more silent films when Orvil Gouchnauer operated a movie theater there about 1913. Admission was five cents to see such greats as "The Birth of a Nation" or "The Thief of Bagdad."

Background music was provided by Mary Holloway Berry and Nannie Campbell at the piano and Clarence Reynolds with his drums. At times during the intermission while reels were changed, Katherine Boren entertained with vocal selections.

In 1916 as returns of the Woodrow Wilson election came in, the news was rushed from the railroad telegraph office to the theater and flashed on the screen.

In later years sound films, with added attractions of local talent shows and free dishes, drew wall-to-wall crowds. "Not-too-old-timers" recall a warm summer evening when a couple of boys slipped a skunk into the theater and managed to place it in front of the electric fan. Needless to say, the movie ended early that night!

Other proprietors through the years included Ben Hill and

Vernon Goucher.

In 1937 the "movie house" moved out of city hall to give room to the Grace Company, a new industry in town.

Soon afterward the "Dixie Theater" opened on the northwest corner of Walnut and Main, It was owned first by Vernou Goucher and later by Whit Mustion. For the first time Belton had an entire building for its theater.



Joe Bill Looney, who worked at the Dixie Theater summers during high school, came back to visit while he was in service.

Following a fire which destroyed much of the interior, Mustion remodeled, providing a slanted floor and closely-spaced seats. As the story goes, rows were so close together that even people of average height found they must place a knee on either side of the curved back of the seat in front in order to gain a semblance of comfort. To the lad lucky enough to grab an aisle seat fell the responsibility of 'popcorn purchasing agent.' Nickels were passed along the row; he would make a trip to the machine in the lobby; then crackling sacks were carefully handed back along the row.

Several high school boys earned spending money and, at the same time, became experienced projectionists. For some, this experience resulted in having the coveted assignment of movie projectionist in overseas army camp theaters during

their years in the service.

When television arrived in the early fifties, business fell off, and the Dixie closed. Periodically movies were shown by civic groups in various store buildings, in the school gymnasium, or in the park at the city hall. By this time, however, television was hypnotizing homes, and few people felt the need for other entertainment.

In the summer of 1971 Ray Beeman opened today's "Minitheater" upstairs at 423 Main, with its entrance on Ella.

It is interesting to note that this is in exactly the same location as Belton's first "opera house" nearly a hundred years ago.

Belton's First Bus

By Kay McCartney



Roy C. Zumwalt who came to Belton from a farm near Lee's Summit on March 1, 1917, started Belton's first bus service two days later. The route was from Belton to Grandview to Kansas City and return. The bus was a GMC bus with side seats for about 15 passengers. Two round trips a day were made, leaving Belton at 7:45 a.m. and 1 p.m., and returning at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

You could board the bus at the corner of Walnut and Main (where Citizens Bank is now) and the bus loaded and unloaded in Kansas City at 11th and McGee. Stops were made between towns for the convenience of passengers and packages were carried as an extra service at reasonable rates.

The Belton to Kansas City rate was 60 cents; Grandview to Kansas City, 50 cents; Belton to Grandview, 25 cents and Dodson to Kansas City, 25 cents.

Saturday and Sunday evenings, a special trip was made, leaving Belton at 6:30 p.m. and returning at 11 p.m. Fare was 75 cents.

In order to maintain the franchise, Zumwalt was required to make one round trip a day to Harrisonville.

Zumwalt's widow, Minnie, 202 Ella St., recalls one Sunday in the early 1920's when the bus got stuck in a bad snow storm between Belton and Grandview. The men on the bus all got out and helped dig the bus out. When they arrived in Grandview, Mr. Dyer of the Dyer and Lacy Dry Goods Store opened his store and got dry underwear for all the men so they would not get pneumonia.

Roy Zumwalt died in 1925 and Mrs. Zumwalt with three small children was unable to continue the service. The line was sold to Charles and Claude Brown, both natives of Belton. Charles had been a driver for Zumwalt.

The Browns made their headquarters in Harrisonville, expanded the line and operated under the name of Crown Coach. The headquarters were moved to Joplin in 1932 where the brothers operated the line until 1968 when both brothers died.

មានទាប់ការសារសារដែលនៅនាងនេះនៅនាងនេះនៃងនៅនាង និងនៃនេះនៃងនៅនេះងនេះងនេះងនេះង វាន់នៃងនៅនាងនៅតាំកើញ Belton=Grandview=Kans. City Motor Bus Line LEAVES DAILY BELTON, at GRANDVIEW, at 8:30 s. m and 1:30 p. m. LEAVES DAILY—IIth and McGee Sts. GRANDVIEW 11:30 н. ш. пид 6:30 р. ш. Arrive at Belton ONE-WAY FARE FROM Belton to Kansas City Grandview to Kansas City..... Belton to Grandview..... CAREFUL, GENTLEMANLY SERVICE FOR INFORMATION CALL 46 R. C. ZUMWALT

Advertisement from 1919 newspaper

The Daltons of Belton

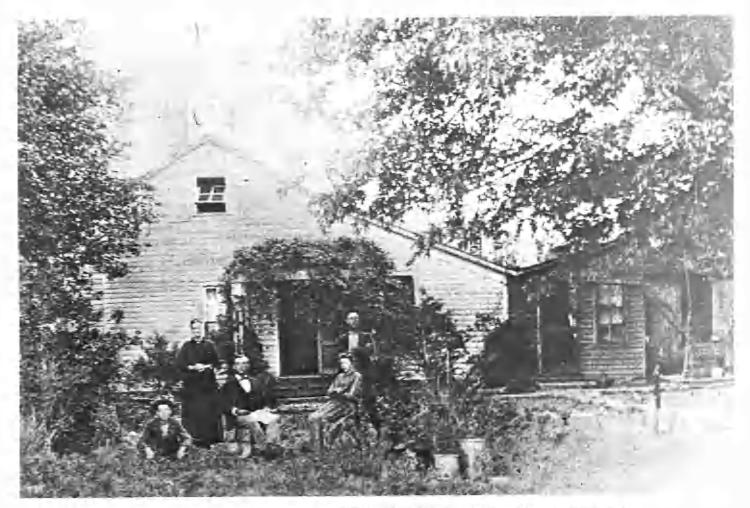
By Dorothy Lane

\$5,000 REWARD



Bob, Emmet, Grat

BDALTON



Picture taken outside the Dalton home, believed to be members of the Dalton family.

"No Man's Land" — the name given to the area affected by Order No. 11 by those who struggled here. This land was located along the western border of Missouri within what is referred to in history as the Middle Border.

The violence of the Civil War contributed to an already unorganized and virtually nothingless law of the new frontier to produce a breed of menthat lived by the gun among the quick and the dead. These men were not only outlaws, but symbols of a period in our history.

The list includes Charles Quantrill, guerrilla fighter during the war, known as the "bloodiest man in American history". Two of the men that rode with him were Frank and Jesse James, born in Clay County, spending their childhood summers at the Younger home south of Lee's Summit. Later the James' companions in crime were Jim, Bob and Cole Younger. Ed Kelly, the man that killed Bob Ford, Jesse James' assassin and cousin, was from Harrisonville.

In this day of women's liberation, maybe we should mention the notorious outlaw Belle Starr, who was born in Carthage, Mo., Feb. 5, 1848. It is believed Calamity Jane was born in Princeton, Mo. about the same date. Now, there's a couple of real swingers for you.

The closest to Belton were the Dalton brothers, several of whom were born on a farm southwest of Belton. The farm has been the home of Mable and Leo (Dick) Aldridge for the past 30 years.

James Louis Dalton, a big easy going ex-Kentuckian, arrived in this area with his family in the fall of 1866. According to land transfer records, he purchased 200 acres of land in Section 20 of Mt. Pleasant Township between August and October of that year. The purchase included: 80 acres from John Ferrell and wife Mary A. for \$1,000; 40 acres from Robert

Ferrell for \$400; 40 acres from Ambrose Flemming for \$300, and 40 acres from Thomas Parker for \$300.

Small but strong willed Adeline Younger Dalton and her husband were married in 1851 and became the parents of 15 children, ten boys and three girls and two girls who died in infancy. The outlaws were of the younger Dalton children with Grattan being two years old when they moved to Cass County from Westport, Bill (William Marion) was born the year they arrived here, Robert in 1869, and Emmett in 1871. In later years Emmett recalled the rambling farmhouse in Cass County where they lived.

The Dalton home was not made of logs as were the neighboring homes. Even though James Dalton has been described in history as a saloon-keeper and horse trader turned farmer and later a circus barker, there is evidence he was a skilled carpenter.

According to Glenn Harrison as related by his grandfather, William Downing, Dalton received the contract in 1869 for the construction of the school house for Mt. Pleasant School District No. 2 which was erected in Section No. 28. The framing was of native lumber taken from a saw mill on Mill Creek, and the rafters were made from hickory poles about three inches at the gable end to about four inches at the butt end. When the school house was torn down in later years, a mitering job of unusual skill was revealed on the pole rafters.

Adeline Dalton was a stern critic of her sons' morals and the line drawn by her was straight and narrow. She would often gather her brood around the piano to sing religious hymns. Years later, when they visited the home the night before they held up the Coffeyville banks, no wonder Bob, Grat and Emmett could not face her, but watched her through the lighted window.

Glenn Harrison also recalls his uncle was a school mate of one of the boys and spent the night in their home on several occasions. Harrison's uncle related "After the morning chores were finished and the breakfast meal served, Mr. Dalton would seat himself at the head of the table and read a few verses from the Bible. Then rising, sliding his chair back from the table he would kneel, place his head in his hands and proceed to give thanks and ask forgiveness from Him who governs and guides our lives through destiny."

Destiny was to deal a cruel blow to the palton family. A financial crisis swept the country in the early 1870's and James Dalton was forced to mortgage his farm along with many other landowners. Further tragedy beset the farmers in 1874 when clouds of grasshoppers darkened the sky devouring all crops as they came. The drought of the late 1870's further depleted the economy of the area and in cartle country put many cowboys to shift on the outlaw trail.

The Ealton family moved with homesteaders to Oklahoma in 1882 just below the Kansas border near Coffeyville, Kans., which became the home town of the Dalton brothers.

Frank Dalton later became a deputy marshal for "Hanging Judge Parker" meeting his death in 1887 in a gun fight with whiskey runners. Grat took Frank's job, and Bob and Emimett were also posse men before they turned to the other side of the law. Bob and Grat were killed in the Coffeyville bank hold-up Oct. 5, 1892. Emett was wounded and sent to prison. Bill, the fourth brother, met a violent death in Oklahoma as a wanted outlaw.

Emmett, paroled in 1907, became a crusader against crime and wrote a book, "When The Dalton's Rode" prepared in collaboration with Jack Jungemeyer, a California newspaper man. The book was published about 1931 and Emmett made a trip to publicize the book. Included were stops at Coffeyville and Belton.

While in Belton, he reminisced about his youth just outside Belton. "I've always wanted to come back to Belton," he said. "I used to come to town with a note Mother sent for groceries. I was just so high", he said, raising his hand above the level of the desk, "I would hand the note over for the grocer to read. There was an old drum stone in the grocery store, men used to sit around the stove and spit tobacco juice over the stove. Oh, I remember it so well."

His wife had accompanied him to Belton and he said of her, "She made a citizen out of me." She was his boyhood sweet-heart and waited while he served 14 years in the Kansas penitentiary.

Mrs. Dalton said, "Emmett loves to help people who suffer." Once he used a slang word and she apologized for him.

He looked at her and said, "They cuss in Missouri, I know Missouri, I want to help all people who are in trouble. The grave or the penitentiary awaits the outlaw."

Jesse James was killed in 1882 and Cole Younger was in prison before the Dalton brothers took up the life of outlaws which lasted only 18 months.

(According to "Outlaws on Horseback" by Drago, the Daltons and the Youngers were second cousins. Adeline Younger, mother of the Daltons, was the daughter of Charles F. Younger, brother of Henry Washington Younger who was the father of Cole and his brothers. James D. Horan in his book "Pictorial History of the Wild West" states that they were first cousins with Charles Younger being the father of Cole Younger and his brothers. Records show that Charles Younger opened a livery stable in Harrisonville in 1861 and prospered.)

Despite the fact Adeline Dalton discouraged her sons from visiting with the Youngers, the James and Youngers were reportedly in this area numerous times and were known by the people here.

According to Tom McKinley, his mother and father related many incidents concerning them. The fact the McKinleys lived

in Kansas may have contributed to the happenings even though they lived within one-half mile of the state line. Tom's father, John Henry McKinley, had a pair of mules for which he had refused a thousand dollarsingold. On three occasions when McKinley had made the trip to Westport for supplies taking him away for the night, Jesse and his boys came to steal the mules. Each time, Mrs. McKinley, described by her children as a fearless woman, would go to the barn, holding a lamp above her head to see what was causing the commotion. Three times she caught the men in the act and persuaded them to return the animals to the stalls. The last time Jesse reportedly said, "Don't worry Mrs. McKinley, we'll not be back for these mules again". Perhaps Jesse thought of his own mother who believed her boys could do no wrong, but whatever the reason he kept his word.

Chances are he just didn't get around to coming back with his train robberies making national news in the late 1870's. After all, why should a bonafide train robber stoop to mule sleafin'.

The outlaw issue became a political football with the divided factions of the state. With each new robbery the pro-confederates would say the boys were driven to it. The ex-Union men would denounce the acts and recommend the gallows. The cry went out that the James-Younger reign of terror was halting immigration into the Middle Border, and millions of dollars were being shut off by industries.

In the begitning it was homesteader against Indian. The Civil War pitted southerner against northerner, bushwhackers against redlegs, resulting in neighbor against neighbor, brother against brother. There were many good men and women who toiled here with dignity, but the violence of the time produced its product among the weak.

At last the outlaw was pitted against the marshal.

Law and order were taking over in 1892 when the townspeople of Coffeyville, Kansas mannedguns to defend their banks against the Dalton gang, — the sons of "No Man's Land."

Emmet Dalton, Outlaw of Early 90's Visits Belton.

Only Survivor of The Dalton Brothers, Notorious Outlaws of 90's
Visits Belton, Home of His
Early Child-hood



CHURCHES

BELTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH



The original Christian Church building on the corner of Main and Cherry Streets.

One hundred five years ago, because of the long distances to travel in horse-drawn vehicles over dirt roads in all kinds of weather, people from the Belton area decided to break away from the Hickman's Mill Christian Church and to form what is now known as the Belton Christian Church.

The group was organized in May, 1867, at the home of John G. Holloway, who lived four miles northwest of Belton, Neighbors who became charter members at that time were Mr. and Mrs. John G. Holloway, Isaac Holloway, Delia Holloway, Jacob Keeney, John T. Keeney, Cynthia McSpadden, Nancy Elizabeth Keeney, Elvira Campbell (cousin of one of the Iounders of the Disciples of Christ Church in the United States), and Jane Young, They were joined by the following people who had also attended the Hickman Mills Church; Joseph Gilmore, Marcellus Gilham, Tom Todd, J. V. Robinson, Jim Parrish, P. I. Wallingford, and Flem Oldham, Many of this first congregation have descendants living today in Belton.

For three years, this group met for worship in homes and in the High Blue School, west of the present city of Belton. In 1870 a frame church home for their growing membership was completed across the road on the southwest corner of the High Blue intersection (now Prospect and 58 Highway).

The building was moved to the southwest corner of Main and Cherry in the growing town of Belton in 1878.

The original frame building was used for 17 more years, when it was moved to the farm where Lacy Estates later developed. At the same location as the original, a new building was completed in 1895 during the pastorate of Rev. O. P. Shrout. Elegant stained glass windows had been ordered from England by the architect for a church he was constructing in Kansas City. When they came, they did not fit, so they were offered to the Belton Church at a greatly reduced price. The brick church was then built to fit the windows.

In 1954 a five-acre tract of landat Airway Lane and Westover Road was offered by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hargis as a building site for a much-needed larger church home. The educational unit was completed in the spring of 1963; the sanctuary section, in the spring of 1972.

A very strict discipline governed the conduct of all during the early days. Dancing, swearing, card playing, and wine bibbing were strictly forbidden, subject to expulsion from the church. Strange as it may seem, there were strenuous objections to the use of an organ for church services, but about 1884 an organ was purchased. Sadie Downing (mother of Glenn and W. D. Harrison) was among the first organists. Effic Moore Wales, who began at the age of 16, was organist from 1895 until 1954. Another organist of long duration was Martha Jane O'Dell Fleetwood, who played for 13 years. Present-day ones are Virginia Goucher, Joy Offutt and Ann Pippin.

J. M. Campbell organized the first Sunday School, Walfer Pettus holds the record, established many years ago, of 23 years as Sunday School Superintendent, Louis Wilckens has served in this capacity for 15 classes during the past year.

For many of the early years Virgil Kerr directed the choir. Today the adult Altar Choir is directed by Deloris Person, wife of the present minister. Under the direction of Virginia Goucher is the Chapel Choir, while Bertie Dean directs the youngest, the Chancel Choir.

About 1890 the women's work was organized as the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Soon after 1895 it became the Christian Women's Board of Missions. The Christian Women's Fellowship, organized in 1951, with Mrs. Ray Sims as president, is today divided into four groups.

Originally organized as the Christian Endeavor in the early 1900's, the youth group name was changed in 1939 to Christian Youth Fellowship. A younger group is known as the Chi Rho, Greek letters for the first two letters of "Christ,"

Formed during the past year through the efforts of Mrs. Person, an ecumenical singing group of young adults, called "The Celebration," is becoming well known for bringing religious music "with a modern beat" to the surrounding area.

Five young men of the congregation have entered into Christian service as ministers. They are Fred Campbell, Harry B. Spear, Frank Herr, Herbert Prince, and Herbert Gebert.

Thirty-four ministers have served the congregation. The longest pastorates among early ones are those of Rev. Romans Smith (1922-28) and Rev. Tom Parrish (1928-34). Several old timers can recall the Easter Sunday that Rev. Smith had 122 men in his Sunday School class.





Miss Frances Keeney (left) breaks ground for the new church building at Airway Lane. At right, the present minister, Rev. Richard L. Person.

Called to the pastorate in September 1961, Rev. Richard L. Person, the present minister, had led the congregation through recent years of growth. In April, 1966, the family moved from the first parsonage, in use since 1918 at 222 Second Street, to a newly erected parsonage on Airway Lane next to the new church home.

During May 1967, the congregation enjoyed a weeklong celebration of its founding a 100 years earlier. From a small group of ten, the membership has grown to the present figure of 550.



Present church parsonage

BELTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Original Methodist Episcopal South Church on the corner of Second and Hackberry, about 1897.

Over a century ago, in 1871, a small group of worshipers banded together to establish a Methodist Church in the new Missouri community of Belton, which had been laid out as a town the year before. The six charter members of this group were John Thompson Perry, Nancy Kelly, Fredonia Mastin, Belle Ashbaugh, T. R. Kennedy and E. H. Walton. At first, worship services were held in a storeroom; and Sunday School classes, in the railroad depot.

After four years of growth, hard work, and devotion, they were able to erect a church building. This church, known as the Methodist Episcopal Church South, was a one-room structure, with a vestibule. It was located at Second and Hackberry, the site of the present church building.

Twenty-three years later, the church was enlarged and remodeled. The building then remained essentially the same until 1954 when additional facilities were needed.

In May, 1956 open house for a new educational building was held. The first service was held in the newly completed adjoining sanctuary on Christmas Eve, 1960.

The original parsonage was destroyed by fire sometime between 1910 and 1914. A new one was built to the west of the church and for more than 50 years this parsonage served the ministers and their families. A new parsonage was built at 317 Hawthorne Drive in 1967. The space formerly occupied by the old parsonage now provides parking lot facilities for the church.

From its small beginnings in the railroad depot, the

Church School has grown to include nineteen classes, from nursery through adult groups. The oldest class for adults, the I.A.H. class with Mrs. Frank Hundley as president, organized in 1910. The Keystone Class was organized in 1930, with Rev. U. V. Wyatt (father of Paul Wyatt) as teacher, and Chester Meador as president. The Crusader Class was organized in 1946 with Harry McMahon as president and Mrs. Frank Mosby as teacher. The same year the Friendship Class was started with Verne Herrick as president and Milton Stark as teacher.

The youth of the church were organized during the early years, being chartered in 1895 as the Epworth League. The name was changed to the Methodist Youth Fellowship in 1940 and in 1968, the group became the United Methodist Youth Fellowship, with the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, to form the present United Methodist Church.

From the beginning, women's groups have been active. The early Foreign Missionary Society and Home Missionary Society were combined and reorganized in 1940 at the time of the unification of the Methodist Church, with Mrs. Harry Lawrence as president. This group, now the Women's Society of Christian Service, is subdivided into three smaller groups, the Ruth, Esther, and Miriam circles.

The Wesleyan Service Guild, organized in 1941, with Miss Ethel Seba as president, was originally planned for the convenience of employed women.

The Methodist Men's Brotherhood, organized in 1949 and chartered in 1951, was active for several years, but is currently inactive.

Music has been an important part in the church life. Four choirs, from pre-school age through adults, serve the worship services. Choir directors include Nancy Terhune, Joyce McCann, Nancy Warner, and Betty Herrick. In 1971 a new electronic organ was installed in the sanctuary.

For the first few years the church had no regular min-



Present church building

ister, but in 1876, the year after the first sanctuary was built, Rev. R. T. Holloway came as minister. During the years since then, 35 ministers have served this church. The longest pastorates were those of J. C. Given (1884-92) and W. H. Winton (1925-33). In 1970 Glen F. Wiggs, presently serving, came to head the congregation.

Four young men of this church have entered the ministry. They are Gary Appleton, James Smith, David Logan, and Robert Bullock.

Many members of the church have given unselfishly of their time and talents in service to the congregation now numbering approximately 600.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Original church building at 202 Main St., about 1914

The First Baptist Church of Belton was organized on April 28, 1872, in the Swampy school house southeast of Belton.

In 1877 a church building was built at 202 Main, the congregation having worshiped during the first five years in the Presbyterian Church. Additions were made to this building in 1911, 1948, 1959, and 1961 as membership grew. An 11-acre plot on which to build the present church was purchased at the corner of South Cedar and Cambridge roads in 1964. The move to the new church was made in the midst of a snow storm in January 1970.

During these hundred years, 27 ministers have led the congregation. J. W. Sage (1877-83), E. H. Foster (1887-94), and Dr. William Gwatkin (1931-37) had served the longest pastorates until Dr. and Mrs. Monte Peterson came in November, 1948. Since that time the membership has grown from 202 to the present 1025.

The church bell, a familiar sound in Belton since 1887, was presented by N. E. Harrelson and is being preserved so that it may be installed in the new belltower at the church on South Cedar in the near future. In the same year a new organ was installed in the original church.

During Rev. T. C. Brammer's first pastorate with the church from 1916 to 1921, the women of the church organized The Golden Rule Circle, which was active for many years in promoting the work of the church and Sunday School, Also, at this time a very fine grand piano was purchased. It is still used as part of the furnishings of the new church building.

In 1921 a bungalow was purchased as a parsonage. In the fall of 1961 a new parsonage in the Hargis Gardens area was completed and the pastor's family moved to their new home. The following year a residence at 121 Westside Drive was purchased to be used as a home for the Music and Educational Director.

A strong BYPU was organized under the leadership of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Russell (1927-31).

The congregation has been active in fostering three new missions. With its help, in 1953 New Hope (south of Belton), in 1957 Belvidere Heights to the north, and in 1968 Westside Mission to the west became organized churches.

In the fall of 1952 a kindergarten was started with Mvs. Ketteman as the first teacher. Others were Mrs. Keltner, Mrs. Joyce Rice, and Mrs. Mildred Houston. The public school took over in 1957, continuing in the church building for some time.

A new church organ was purchased in 1959; a church library was established; and a Brotherhood group was organ-

"The Church Mouse" was a monthly publication when it began in 1952 with Mrs. Marjorie Lamar and Mrs. Donna Wear as editors. The publication has become a weekly one and is now edited by the church staff.

Mrs. Bessie Baldwin became the first full-time secretary in 1955. She served in this capacity until 1959 and returned in 1963 to remain until the present time. Others serving as secretaries were Mrs. Doris Glover, Mrs. Hattie Kirk, and Mrs. Lynette Lawlis.

Mrs. Marie Perkins was the first paid norsery worker. Others have served since, and the nursery has become a very important and necessary part of the church program.

Several choir leaders and educational directors have devoted their time and talents to lead the congregation in its service through the years. At the present time Rodney Crites, Music and Educational Director, leads the adult choir. The choir is under the direction of Thomas Bennett.

Groups from this church have regular worship services at the Cass County Jail in Harrisonville, at the Shearer Rest Home, west of Belton, and at the Juvenile Home in Kansas City.

A supply of used clothing is always on hand, and the "Clothes Basket" is always available to any who are in need.

The Child Welfare has been held for a number of years in the church building with members assisting.

Since 1957 seven men have been ordained to preach. They are W. L. Tucker, Rainford S. Davis, Archie Cooley, Harold Black, Carl Hudgins, Ralph Maddox, and Ronnie Owens. Licenses have been granted to several others.



Rev. Monte Peterson at dedication of new building at Highway 'Y' and Cambridge Road.



Present building, First Baptist Church

ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

The Assembly of God Church in Belton, Mo., began in 1954 because of the efforts of two men—Rev. George Swearingin and Walt Cornell. They rented a small store building on Main Street and held services there for some two years. As the church began to grow, the need for a larger building grew. In 1956 property was purchased at 202 Cherry and a small building was erected. During this time Pastor Swearingin also held services in the surrounding community. The church bad two more pastors for short periods of time, until 1948 when Ray Thomas assumed the duties of pastor.

Under his pastorate, the church saw an almost phenomenal growth from 29 to more than 200 in Sunday School every week. Again needing a larger building, in 1962 the present building was erected on the corner of "B" and Cherry

Streets. Pastor Thomas led the congregation for some 11 years before moving in 1969 to Yuma, Ariz., where he is serving at this time.

Under the leadership of Pastor Bill Popejoy, who followed, the church has experienced an enlarged outreach in the printed work. Their weekly bulletin "HAPPENINGS" goes to some 450 people around the United States and their monthly publication "TESTIMONY" has over 1,000 names on the mailing list. "TESTIMONY" consists of the sermons preached each month by Pastor Popejoy over KCCV Saturdays at 12:30. Also in print are a number of gospel tracts written and printed by the Pastor.

Pastor Popejoy's first book of sermons entitled "TIMES OF REFRESHING" was published in 1971.

RFITON BIBLE CHURCH

The Belton Bible Church began as a Bible class taught by the associate Pastor of the Blue Ridge Bible Church, of Kansas City, Mo., David A. Hazen in March, 1963.

The church was officially organized on May 29, 1964, at the Raphael Still residence, 522 Second Street, Belton, and the first formal meetings of the Belton Bible Church were held on Sunday June 7, 1964. The meetings consisted of Sunday School, Sunday Service, Sunday Evening Service and Thursday evening Bible Study. These meetings were held in the rented quarters of the Scott Junior High School building. Pastor David A. Hazen preached and continued to lead the church during the fall of 1964 and into the spring of 1965.

During the spring of 1965, Robert E. Porter donated the land at 209 Lynn Street to the church and Rev. D. Maynard Bowen was called to Pastor the church in May, 1965. The church moved its meeting place from the Scott Junior High building to 107 Georgia Lane in June, 1965. There they met in the basement until the new building was completed. The move into the Lynn Street basement was made on Sept. 19, 1965.

It was decided to put a top on the basement on Lynn Street in January 1966. Construction began in early spring of 1966, and the first service in the upstairs auditorium was held Sept. 25, 1966. Since Robert Porter and his family were transferred in 1965, their property was rented for additional space by the church. It was voted to vacate the Porter property so they could sell it in February 1967, but in March a five year lease was given on the Porter house and it was purchased by the church July 1, 1971.

Two important things happened in the life of the church in 1968. First, the church took support for the Jess Tanis family for four months of Missionary Internship in British Columbia, Canada, and then on Dec. 8, the first young man from the congregation was ordained to the Gospel ministry, Larry Pilkington.

The most important events in 1969 were the establishment of a construction fund for the purchase of property and a new church building, and the ordination of Jess Tanis, Missionary appointee to British Columbia, Canada, who in 1970 traveled North and West to take Missionary work among the Indians in British Colombia, Canada.

Clinton R. Keaton, elder on the church board answered a call to pastor the Bible Baptist Church of Buhl, Idaho in 1971. He was ordained to the ministry May 23, 1971 and began his pastoral duties the first of June. The Porter house was torn down and a basement was dug for additional educational space. At the present time, the new basement is almost ready for use.

CHURCH OF CHRIST





Above, the present church at 103 Myron Ave. At left, the present minister, Robert E. Dessell, his wife, Darlene and children, Robby and Jeanette.

The first meeting of the Church of Christ in Belton was held in the American Legion Hall on Main Street Sunday morning Dec. 20, 1959. This assembly came about as a result of the Grandview church working with a few members living in Belton but worshiping at Grandview. The original group consisted of 25 members from the familes of Hue Tolbert, Bill Howell, Ray Scott, Lewis Clancy, Harry Penrose, Ray Boles, John Mellinger and Mrs. Mary Batson. The preaching was conducted by Claude Rogers, a minister of the gospel. The first evangelistic meeting was conducted with Roster F. Moss of Nashville, Tenn. doing the speaking in April 1960.

The second year began with 67 members, John L. Ferguson from Kansas City was engaged to preach, With his efforts and encouragement ground was purchased in August, 1961 and a building was completed for worship service May 23, 1962 at 103 Myron Avenue. The major part of construction being performed by local members. The mortgage was paid in full in Nov. 1970.

Cleo R. Gilbert from Grandview was secured as the first full time paid servant of the church in September 1963. He moved his family to this area and worked diligently with the church for seven years.

Robert E. Dessell, from Raytown, began his ministry with the congregation on July 4, 1971. He and his wife Darlene, and children, Robby and Jeanette have since moved to the Belton Community and is the present minister.

Current activities include Sunday morning Bible Study and Worship; Sunday evening Worship; Bible Study Classes and a Bible Correspondence Course.

CHURCH OF THE NAZERENE

One of the newer congregations in Belton is the Church of the Nazarene which was started in December, 1968. Through the personal evangelism efforts of Rev. Harry Rich, a Nazarene missionary on furlough from Haiti, a Sunday School was established. During that time Rev. Rich was living in Springdale Lake Estates and the recreation hall there was obtained as the site for the Springdale Chapel Sunday School. It was sponsored by the Kansas City District Church of the Nazarene. Under the leadership of Rev. Rich and Dr. Wilson Lanpher, Kansas City District Superintendent, land for a permanent building site was purchased. The church property is located south on Y Highway, just inside the city limits.

Three pastors have followed Rev. Rich; Rev. Gerald Baker; Rev. Louis Bustle and the present pastor Rev. Bill Childs who assumed his duties in June, 1970.

The church was organized with 19 charter members on Aug. 8, 1971 by Dr. Samuel Young, one of the presiding General Superintendents in the Church of the Nazarene. At that time it officially became the Belton Church of the Nazarene.

Although the temporary location still remains at the recreation hall at Springdale Lake, present plans call for new building facilities during the year 1972.



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Childs

LORD OF LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A group of Christian people began holding worship services in Cambridge Elementary School in October of 1967. Their goal was to organize the first Lutheran Church in the Belton — Raymore area. Rev. Dennis L. Heath, a young recent graduate of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, was called to help them. They purchased a parsonage for their pastor on Berry Street in the Countryside Manor addition of Belton. Lord of

Love Lutheran Church was the name chosen for the young congregation, Land was purchased very reasonably from S. L. Bradley along State Highway 58, east of the present site of Fleetwood Chevrolet.

The congregation continued to worship in Cambridge School through the winter awaiting the contruction of their new building. They worked hard under the guidance of Pastor Heath and

by the time their new building was dedicated in April, 1968, they numbered some 50 families.

Pastor Heath resigned in Feb. 1969 to pursue a career in social work where he had done graduate work. Lord of Love called Rev. Thomas Barthelmeh, Associate Pastor of Spring Lake Park Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn., to be their new pastor and he was installed April 20, 1969.

The leadership of the congregation has remained active in the field of Evangelism and they continue to gain in strength and numbers.

ST. SABINA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



St. Sabina's Church at Third and Herschel Streets

Rev. T. J. Crowell, pastor of the mission churches of Cass County, which included Pleasant Hill, Harrisonville and Belton celebrated the first Mass in Belton on Sept. 10, 1944. It was said in a liquor store on 71 Highway, the only available space at the time. After about a year, the location was changed to the Belton Public School auditorium.

Some 14 families comprised the parish, some are still active such as Mr. and Mrs. Herb Catron, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mucke, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schmedding, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Simpson and Mrs. Loretta Gray,

As more Catholic families moved into the parish, the need for a church was evident. Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara selected the present site of the church at Third and Herschel Streets in Oct. 1945.

Henry Mucke started a campaign to raise funds for the property. All the parishoners donated and some non-Catholic families also aided the campaign. Mucke, his son Wayne, Schmedding and Catron brought in the equipment and began clearing the site and digging the foundation for the church.

James Green made a donation for the purchase of a church with the understanding that it would be named St. Sabina's in memory of his wife, Sabina.

The present church is an Army chapel which was purchased in December, 1947 at Camp Crowder, Mo. It was reconstructed after being moved here and covered with asbestos shingles. Seating capacity is 250 persons.

Bishop O'Hara presided at dedication ceremonies on Aug. 8, 1948.

Father Crowell was transferred in 1951 and since then pastors have been, Rev. Dan Murphy, Rev. William Baskett, Rev. Francis J. Daly, Msgr. Robert J. Hogan, Rev. John S. Murphy, Msgr. Emmett R. Summers and Rev. William Daly, associate-pastor.

Since June, 1965 Rev. Roger F. Miller has served as pastor, to some 200 families.

The first baptism was that of Linda Ann Plunkett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Plunkett on Dec. 16, 1945; the first Confirmation took place on April 1, 1946. Members of the class

were Vernon Mucke, James Mucke and T. J. Schmedding. The first choir director was Mrs. F. L. Hellings in 1949, members were Donna Mucke, Maxine Mucke, Florence Blanton, Patty and Ann Hellings. The first Communion class was on April 29, 1951. Children receiving Communion for the first time were Julius Bax, Philip Blanton, Barbara and Frank Mackendanz and James Hellings.

The first celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage was on Aug. 28, 1954 when Patricia Carey was married to Thomas Donovan. Jr.

A Saturday School of Religion was started in September, 1959, for first grade through nigh school. Four Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion staffed the school. Almost 140 children from St. Sabina's, Coronation parish in Grandview and children from Richards-Gebaur AFB were enrolled in the classes held in the church hall.

Herb Catron headed a fund drive in May, 1960 which raised enough funds to purchase a home at 504 Lacy Lane and 15 acres of ground in Lacy Estates. The old rectory on Second Street, which had been purchased in 1951, was sold.

The parish School of Religion now has 245 students from St. Sabina's parish alone and classes are held in class rooms



View of the Altar of St. Sabina's Church

rented from the Belton School District. Some 20 adult catechists serve as teachers. Sister Madeline Peplow, D.S.J., M.A. has served the parish as Director of Religious Education since 1969.

The property of the parish located in Lacy Estates, in cooperation with the Belton Jaycees is presently being used as playground for children living in the area.

A parish council was formed in 1965 with Wayne Mucke,

now of Sedalia, Mo. as its first president. Present officers are Jerome Mosakowski, president; Robert Henderson, vice-president; Mrs. Sue Menke, secretary. Mrs. Jackie Cruise, Milton Villarreal, Charles Cummings and Mrs. Judy Reed serve as committee chairmen for the council.

Now near the end of 28 years in Belton, St. Sabina's recently began a "committment" drive to assure income for proposed expansion plans in the near future.

BELTON COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Original Cumberland Presbyterian Church on the corner of Second and Ella Streets.



Rev. Virgil P. Moccia

According to the old church register the High Blue congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was originally organized on Sept. 26, 1842, and reorganized after the Civil War on July 29, 1866. It became the Belton Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in June 1875 and the Belton Presbyterian Church, USA in 1906. Early elders included H. D. McSpadden, H. Fitzwater, E. F. Ferrel and John Lamar. The clerk was C. S. Hockaday.

In the minutes for Aug. 30, 1917, Rev. E. L. Lett tendered his resignation in order that he might go to the U. S. Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, Ill. The clerk at that time was Charles Casper. The congregation was dissolved and six years later the building on Second St. was torn down. Square nails from the building can still be found on the lot.

From that time until 1964, there was no Presbyterian group in the city of Belton. On April 5, 1964, a group of 14 people met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Turner, 908 Ridge, to worship together as Presbyterians under the leadership of the Rev.

Virgil P. Moccia. Church School teachers from the Lee's Summit Presbyterian Church, U. S. gave their time as leaders of the children's and adult classes of this small band of people. The group grew in number, and in mid-May of that same year began metting in the Cambridge Elementary School all-purpose room each Sunday.

Worship services were held in this manner until September 1965. At that time the building at 122 Main Street, which had formerly housed the Christian congregation, became available, and was rented by the Presbyterian group until December, 1966, when it was purchased from the Christian Church congregation.

The Presbytery of Kansas City officially organized the congregation as the Belton Community United Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. on March 3, 1968.

At the time of this official organization, Charles Casper, of 312 E. 70th St., Kansas City, Mo., the clerk of Session of the old Presbyterian congregation in 1917, was still living, and was 95 years old. He had joined the church at the age of 12, in 1885.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Westside Baptist Chapel was organized late in 1960 as a mission of the First Baptist Church of Belton. Rev. and Mrs. C. R. Storer and Miss Maudie Ratliff were sent from the Belton Church to augment the staff of workers from West Belton. Rev. Storer was named pastor.

A home at 17301 Prospect was leased from the late Ed Jackson, who donated the first six month's rent. Initial services were held on Jan. 1, 1961 with an attendance of 20 in Sunday

School and 29 at Worship Services. By the end of the first year, a full program was organized and functioning.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the present location were held May 27, 1962, actual construction began June 18, of that year. A flat-roofed concrete block building 38 by 90 feet was built. Contributions towards construction were received from the Belton Church, Blue River Association, 1000 Club, Missouri State Baptist Convention and many members of the Mis-

sion. The Mission moved from the crowded house on Prospect to its new home on Aug. 1, 1962 before construction was actually completed.

Rev. Storer resigned in July, 1963 and in September was followed by Rev. Charles Register who served until January 1966.

Rev. David E. Rutherford assumed the duties of pastor in March, 1966 and under his leadership three important milestones in the church's history were passed. A gabled roof, front portico, sidewalks, and a parking lot were added and the interior was redecorated under a remodeling program initiated in June 1966. Most of the labor was donated by the men of the church.

The church was constituted as a church with 122 active members on Jan. 7, 1968. Rev. Monte Peterson officiated at the ceremony and Rev. Storer delivered the message. Arthur Dean Smith was named the first deacon and the church applied for and was accepted for membership in the Blue River Baptist Assn. and cooperates with the Missouri and Southern Baptist

conventions.

Groundbreaking for a new 400-seat sanctuary was held in July, 1968.

Upon his graduation from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Rev. Rutherford concluded his ministry in June, 1969.

Rev. Norman Bergmann, a student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, served as pastor until his graduation, June, 1970. At that time, Rev. Arthur Dean Smith, Jr., son of the church's first deacon became interim pastor.

On July 12, 1970 dedication services for the new sanctuary were held. With the exception of the concrete work, all labor in the construction of the sanctuary was donated by members of the church, including the teenagers of the church spreading 40 tons of gravel for the basement.

Since September 1970, Rev. Henry F. Grogan has been pastor of the church which now has 231 active members. He and his wife live in the temporary parsonage, a remodeled portion of the original building. Bus service is provided in the neighborhood for all services.

PICTURE ALBUM - - CHURCHES

The IAH (I am His) Class was organized in 1910 by Mrs. J. W. Carnagey, mother of Dale Carnegie. It was the first Sunday School class to receive a charter in Belton, Charter members were Mrs. Frank Hundley, its first president; Fannie Hawthorne, Vae Arnold, Vernie Boren, Katherine Parr, Pearl and Lillian Zumwalt and Grace and Susan Wilson, In this picture, Mrs. Carnagey is standing at the extreme right, Third, fourth and fifth from right on the top row are Edna Bullock, Mrs. Gene Jones, (mother of former mayor, Bob Jones) and Mrs. John Jones (mother of Mrs. Ted Beeghly). Second, third and fourth from right after Mrs. Carnagey on the bottom row are Mrs. W. B. Hugings, Mrs. Howard Huggins and



Mrs. John Jackson, (mother of J. Weldon Jackson). The class motto is "If every member were just like me, what kind of a class would this class be?" The picture was taken in 1914.



Still an active part of the Methodist Church today, present members include some of the original members. Pictured left to right are Mrs. Maizie McKee, Mrs. Laura Huggins, Mary E. Cunningham, Clea Crow, Della McDowell, Minnie J. Zumwalt, Geneva Herrick, president (mother of Mrs. J. Weldon Jackson); Mary Hundley, Edna Bullock and Antoni Fore.



This was the Baptist Missionary Society around 1907-09. Shown with their pastor, Rev. George C. Monroe, are (1 to r) Mrs. Lillian Hargis Givens, Mrs. J. W. Harrel-

son, Mrs. Maude Yost Hawthorne, Miss Anna Garnett, Mrs. Yocum, Mrs. George C. Monroe, Mrs. Brady Harris, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Ollie Degen, Mrs. G. W. Rey-

nolds, Mrs. Harrelson, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. William E. Yost, Mrs. Mary Bales Roberts, Mrs. Maleta H. Scott, Mrs. T. T. Garnett, Mrs. J. M. Shouse, Mrs. Josie Powell, Miss Maggie Miller, Mrs. Eugenia Snider, Miss Edmonia Garnett, Mrs. Nell Shouse Rosier, Mrs. E. W. Miller, Rev. Monroe, Mrs. J. W. Dawley, and Mrs. J. S. West.



This men's group at the Christian Church, some 122 of them, posed for a picture on Easter Sunday during the 1920s while Rev. Romans Smith was pastor.



As part of the Methodist Church Centennial celebration, a pictorial directory with pictures of 240 church families was published. Dr. Arnold Prater, present Joplin District Superintendent and former minister delivered an address to a crowd of 500. The centennial committee was composed of Lara Meinershagen, chairman; Ethel Seba, Gary Handley, Don Carter, Fred Seba, Weldon Jackson and Pauline Mosby. Shown are part of the congregation in their centennial costumes. Pictured are Milton Twente, Homer Pratt, Mrs. J. L. Pratt, Mrs. Homer Pratt, Mrs. Milton Twente, Mrs. E. C. Weber, Mrs. Ray Young, Mrs Harry Meador, Mrs. Carl Henderson, Mrs. Chester Meador, Miss Margie Zumwalt, Miss Laura Meinershagen, Mrs. M. E. Lomax and Miss Ethel Seba.

The old North Methodist Episcopal Church which was on the corner of Second and Hackberry diagonally across the street from the present Methodist Church. It has been remodeled and is the present home of Jim Campbell.

- 62 -

NEWSPAPERS



Dan C. Idol

Before Belton was six years old, L. D. Connely began publication of a four-column, four-page newspaper in 1878, It was printed at Lee's Summit but mailed in Belton. It only ran a few months however, and was discontinued. Then in 1880, John H. Tritt of Ohio established a weekly newspaper, named The Belton Mirror. Two years later he sold the paper to C. M. Williams, a young lawyer who came to Belton from Harrisonville, who changed the name to the Cass County Leader and within a few months sold it to R. J. McNutt. Mc-Nutt transferred half interest to W. A. Hail in 1885. Mc Nutt sold his interest to Dan C. Idol and started another paper in Drexel. McNutt returned to Belton in 1893 and began a competitive newspaper, The Belton Herald, which Idol purchased the next year. The Leader suspended publication in the late nineties and The Herald became the only newspaper. The plant was destroyed by fire in 1904 and for several months the paper was printed in the Democrat office in Harrisonville, Idol sold the paper to J. R. Devoy of Seneca, Kans. who put in a new plant. Ownership was transferred in 1907 to L. B. (Brady) Harris and in 1911 was resold to Idol, who retained ownership until 1923, when it was sold to L. O. Reagan who was publishing The Belton Star, From then it was The Belton Star-Herald.

The Star had been founded by C. Whit Williams in early 1916 but little else is known about it. Newspaper offices have been in the 300 block of Main St.; at the back of what is now Dryden's Drug Store at 401 Main; at 418, 425, and 421 Main Street. In February, 1972 the plant was moved to 419 Main St.

Dan C. Idol, who headed the newspaper in the early years possessed editorial wit and wisdom. He had an exceptional command of the English language and his wedding stories, obituaries, reports of the town's comings and goings and editorials ran the gamut of emotions. When writing about himself or his family, he referred to himself as Col. Starbuck. His sons, Roy and Edgar managed the paper at various times during Idol's tenure.

At the time of his death, the Kansas City Star said, "Mr. Idol had an exceptional comprehension of day to day affairs, an incisively entertaining style of writing, wielded, to put it

in an old-fashioned way, with a trenchant pen. Everybody in this region knew him personally or by reputation, and liked him, or if having possibly differed with him on this issue or that 'ism', admired him. Now they share in a common sorrow as fate writes the traditional' "30" indicating the end."

During the ten years from 1924 to 1934, the Star-Herald had a succession of owners and editors and very little is known about any of them.

Reagan evidently sold to a C. L. Blair who operated it for a short time. Gilbert Lewis appears on the masthead in 1927. Then V. A. McGilvray owned it, then a Mr. Brady. McGilvray's name appears again in 1930, Flora LaVanche McCullough Larrick in 1931; D. D. Scroggs in 1932; M. M. Eaton in 1933 and D. D. Scroggs again in early 1934.

The March 29, 1934 issue announced that Scroggs had again assumed ownership, but due to other committments, he had named George E. Spear as editor and publisher. Spear had been a resident of Belton for about five years and was employed as a linotype operator for the Cass County Democrat and The Democrat at Lee's Summit. Spear and his wife, Florence, bought the paper and Spear chalked up the longest tenure of any editor, serving until his death in 1960. Mrs. Spear, with the help of her son, George, Jr., operated the paper three more years until 1963.

In June of that year, J. W. Brown, Jr. owner of the Cass County Democrat-Missourian bought the paper and named Joseph J. Maurer as managing editor. The paper changed from letterpress to offset printing in November, 1963 going from a seven-column metro size to a five-column tabloid.

A local corporation, The Belton Banner, was formed in September, 1965 which purchased the paper from Brown, making it once again "home-owned." Maurer became corporation president and retained his duties as editor.

A native of Nyack, N. Y., Maurer was employed there for 11 years with the daily Nyack Journal-News as a linotype



George E. Spear

operator, columnist and sports writer. His father, Edward J., had been an employee of the same paper for 40 years.

Maurer, who attended Adelphi College, Long Island, N. Y. from 1947-1949, moved to Columbia, Mo. in 1960 where he entered the University of Missouri, receiving his B. J. degree in 1963.

He is married to the former Dodie LeVee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence LeVee of Centralia, Mo. The Maurers have five children, Michele, a third year music major at Northeast Missouri State College, Kirksville; Kathy, Mary Jo, Ed and Patti, all presently students in the Belton schools.

Mrs. Dixie Bartimus joined the staff in 1964 and she and her husband, Lt. Col. (Ret.) James L. Bartimus were among the original stockholders when the Belton Banner corporation was formed. She has held the post of associate-editor for the past several years. Their daughter, Tad, who wrote a column for teen-agers during her high school days and was a part-time employee, joined Associated Press after her graduation from the University of Missouri in 1969. Their son, Jim, who also worked part-time at the newspaper, is an Ensign attached to the Carrier Midway.

The newspaper today has a circulation four times the 1963 figure and has been a leader in supporting and promoting the growth of Belton, whose population rose from about 5,000 in 1960 to over 12,000 in 1970. An editorial in the fall of 1969 was the start of a volunteer contributory drive to obtain an ambulance for Belton. In 18 months the fund had topped \$10,000 and an ambulance was serving the town in November, 1970.

Another "first" was the installation of Tele-News in early

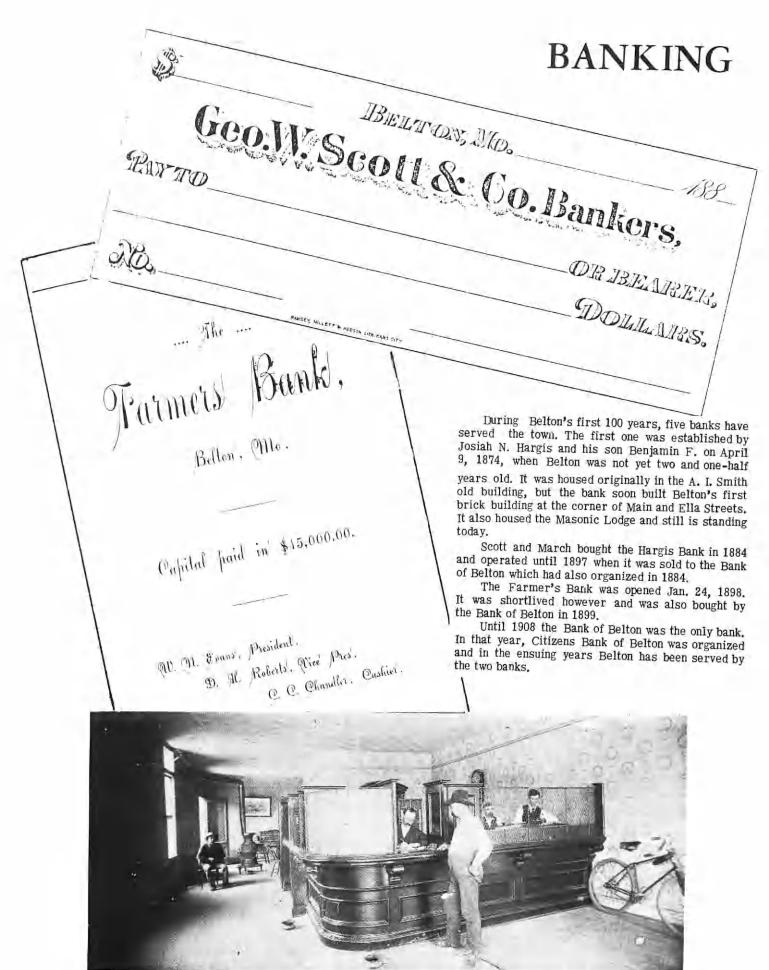


Dixie Bartimus, associate editor, (left) and Micky Maurer visit with Rep. William Randall on one of his visits to Belton.

1970. Twice-daily newscasts are recorded and residents may phone in on a 24-hour basis to keep informed daily on news of Belton. Averaging about 300 calls per day, by June 1972 more than a quarter million calls will have been made.







Inside of The Hargis Bank, Belton's first which was started in 1874.

Bank of Belton



The original Bank of Belton building, built in 1884

During Belton's Centennial year, the Bank of Belton will celebrate its 88th anniversary and will move into its new quarters at 204 Main Street. It has become the oldest continuously chartered bank in the Greater Kansas City area.

The Bank of Belton was organized and chartered on Aug. 11, 1884, and began business on Sept. 10, of that year. The organizers and their shares (\$100 each) subscribed were: Alexander Franklin Blair, 50 shares; J. R. Pope, 50 shares; W. H. Bohart, 50 shares; G. W. Powell, 10 shares; Marcellus Gilham, 10 shares; A. C. Briant, 10 shares; F. G. Robinson, 5 shares; J. V. Robinson, 5 shares; J. D. L. Jones, 5 shares and Frank Huber, 5 shares.

At the first meeting of the organizers on July 23, 1884, A. F. (Frank) Blair was elected president and the purchase of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 47 was authorized for the sum of \$850. The present building was built for \$1,789. A. F. Blair served as president until his death, June 11, 1909.

James Franklin Blair was hired by the bank as a book-keeper in 1887 and was appointed cashier in 1895. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1931, R. P. Dunlap was cashier in 1892.

On Jan. 16, 1897, the Board of Directors voted to buy the banking business of George W. Scott and Co., paying \$2,000 for good will and fixtures. Members of the boardat that time were A. F. Blair, J. F. Blair, T. T. Garnett, B. F. Hargis, F. G. Robinson, Frank Huber, Marcellus Gilham, W. E. Yost and Tom Berry.

The board authorized the purchase of the Farmers Bank of Belton on June 2, 1899 and undertook to liquidate the obligations of said bank. The sum paid was \$1,000.

By action of the board of directors on Sept. 21, 1900, a cement sidewalk was ordered and installed around the bank.

T. T. Garnett was elected president on June 26, 1909 and served until Jan. 17, 1914. His grandson, Richard E. George is presently chairman of the Board of Directors.

Frank Huber followed as president and served until Jan. 16. 1926. His granddaughter, Miss Mary Catherine Sams, has been serving as co-chairman of the Historical Committee for Belton's Centennial.

S. E. Jerard was the next president, serving until Feb. 6, 1932 when R. C. Wilson was named to the position. Wilson was the father of Grace Wilson Van Brunt, founder and owner of The Grace Co., Belton; and Lucy Wilson Dunlap, owner of

the Little Shirt Co., Belton. Wilson was president until his death, Sept. 25, 1942.

In October of that year, Estell R.O'Dell was named president, and served until Jan. 13, 1961 when he was elected chairman of the Board of Directors, serving in that capacity until his death, March 3, 1963. He was replaced by Maude Yost Hawthorne who had been a member of the Board of Directors since 1922. Jack S. Dryden was appointed to fill the vacancy on the board.

J. L. Phillips, who had succeeded J. F. Blair in 1931 as cashier, retired Jan. 1, 1955 and D. George Eblen was named to the post. Eblen is now executive vice-president and a member of the board of directors.

Miss Ethel A. Seba, who is now cashier, was hired as a stenographer in 1929 and is the bank's longest continuous employee.

John W. Howard, who was employed by the bank in 1962 and named assistant cashier in 1963, is now a vice-president and member of the board of directors.

From humble beginnings in a prairie town, the bank has grown to sizeable proportions with over seven million dollars in assets.



The two employees with the longest tenure, Frank Blair, Jr. and Ethel A. Seba.

Citizens Bank of Belton



Citizens Bank of Belton as it appeared in the late 1950s. Note street light at the intersection of Main and Walnut Streets.

The Citizens Bank of Belton was chartered on June 19, 1908 by a large group of citizens. Two other private banks had operated in the Belton area but were non-existent at this time, however the Bank of Belton had been in operation since 1884.

Twenty thousand dollars in capital stock was raised and the bank started operation on the 1st day of July, 1908. On the first day of operation \$5,715.38 was deposited, and at the end of the first year of operation there was on deposit \$70,000. James M. Shouse was the first president and W. A. Hail was the first cashier and managing officer.

John E. Mullen was president (inactive) and Fred Burkhart was cashier and managing officer for many years. Others who served as president were Dr. R. M. Miller and Russell S. Mullen.

J. Weldon Jackson joined the bank in 1953 as assistant cashier. In 1961 he was appointed cashier and in 1963 became president and chief executive officer, Other officers are E. C. Hartzler, cashier and Fred Buchanan, assistant cashier.

The Citizens Bank has made a meteoric climb in the past several years and assets in their last published statement as of Dec. 31, 1972 were over nine million.

In 1971 the Board of Directors after long and careful study. became affiliated with the First Charter Group of Missouri of which the First National Bank of Kansas City is the Chief bank. The present directors are C. J. Fleetwood, chairman of the board; J. L. Campbell, vice-chairman; E. C. Hartzler, secretary; Arthur G. Gillum, M. E. Lomax, S. L. (Jack) Keen Jr. and J. Weldon Jackson.



J. Weldon Jackson, president of Citizens Bank has been active in Belton's civic life. He was named "Girl Scout Friend Extraordinaire" in 1972 for his 25 years of assistance to Girl Scouting.

START YOUR OWN ACCOUNT

If you do not have an account with this Bank, start one. even though it be small. We are interested in your success and business welfare. We want to help you to the very best of our ability. Come to us for advice. You are welcome to ask questions freely and consult us as often as you wish. It will be a pleasure to us if we can be of assistance to you.

Citizens Bank

Belton, Mo.

An early advertisement (1912) of Citizens Bank of Belton.



BELTON'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

For many years, Belton's business district was centered on Main Street. As the town has grown, so has the number and variety of businesses. North Scott Street south from County Line Road is lined with businesses and Highway 58 and the streets between it and Main Street east of Scott boast a number of going concerns. Two shopping centers have been built in the last few years, and the future holds the promise of a continuing strong and vital business community. On the succeeding pages are highlighted those businesses which have been a part of Belton for twenty years or more.



Fay Hardware



Reggie Fay (left), and his father, Harry H. in their store about 1934.

In May, 1932, during the depths of the depression, one of Belton's older businesses had its beginning. It was then that Harry H. Fay and his son, Reginald M. of Leavenworth, Kans., established the Fay and Son Hardware Company in the J. V. Robinson brick building, which had formerly housed the Creek Hardware at 404 Main.

m 1949, the firm expanded to an adjoining J. V. Robinson building. An appliance line, including radios and television was added. Having not yet brought TV into their homes, crowds gathered on evenings when wrestling or Milton Berle were special attractions on this wonderful new invention.



Wayne and Martie Harris

Elnora and Reggie Fay

Mrs. Wayne (Marguerite) Harris of Belton joined Fay Hardware in 1955 and has been with them since that time,

At 8:30 on Sunday night, March 12, 1961, during a severe thunderstorm, lightning struck and set the hardware store aftire. Very few things, including the safe and hardware scales, were saved, since the buildings were a total blaze when the fire was discovered. Fortunately, 75 pounds of dynamite in the rear of the store did not explode. However, there were small explosions of shotgun and rifle shells. No one was injured. Fire departments from Richards-Gebaur AFB, Hickman Mills, Grandview, Peculiar, and Harrisonville aided the Belton Fire Department in fighting the blaze. Damage estimated to the contents was \$25,000 to \$30,000. Lost was a collection of irreplaceable old hardware items which were treasured by the Fays as relics of America's past. Included was a venerable pot-bellied stove, converted to gas, which had continued to be the center of activity on many cold days.

Harry H. Fay retired from the business following the fire. During the same year, Reginald re-established the store at 415 Main, in what was formerly the Post Office. It was at this time that Wayne A. Harris joined the company in its new location.

The store is observing its 40th anniversary this year.

Hy-Klas Food Market

Observing its 25th anniversary this year is the Hy-Klas Food Market. Founded July 1, 1947, by John Shawhan and Pryor Miller, the grocery was first located at 408 Main. Five years later James Herndon replaced Miller as Shawhan's partner, and the store was moved to its present location at 314 Main.

Upon the death of Herndon in 1962, Shawhan purchased the other half interest. It was then that Wayne and Vernon Mucke decided to go into the grocery business, which they had "learned the hard way" while employed in the store. They bought out Shawhan on Sept. 2, 1962.

On Feb. 23, 1969, Vernon became sole owner. With 19 employees, this year he is celebrating his tenth anniversary by filling thousands of grocery sacks in town.



Vern Mucke in front of Hy Klas Food Store, 1972

Benson Lumber Company

In 1938, after fire destroyed his lumber yard at 323 Commercial, Todd Noland sold the land to Herbert L. Benson of Pleasant Hill, Mo. At that time Benson was operating yards in Pleasant Hill and Eldon, Mo., and Pahoska, Okla. The George Hope Lumber Yard had operated at that location for many years.

The Belton Star-Herald announced the formal opening of the newly-built Benson Lumber Yard on Sept. 29, 1939. "On that day the public was invited to visit this new, modern lumber yard... Belton welcomes this new firm and its manager, Lee Tucker and his family."

Tucker managed the Belton yard in the forties, and was followed by Allan Olson and James Rutledge in the fifties. Mannice Beidleman has been manager since early 1960.

H. L. Benson died Feb. 27, 1958, and at that time George and Robert Benson took over the Benson yards at Belton, Columbia, Eldon, Pleasant Hill and Sedalia.

Employing seven at the present time, Benson Lumber. Company is celebrating a third of a century of supplying building materials for Belton's homes.

Fleetwood Chevrolet



Fleetwood Chevrolet's new quarters, 'Fleetwood Corners' at 71 and 58 Highways.

Claude J. Fleetwood signed a franchise agreement with Chevrolet Motor Company to self new cars and trucks in March 1936. The address of the agency was Holmes Park, Missouri and the name of the company was to be "Fleetwood Chevrolet Company". The original contract called for the purchase of 12 new cars and trucks a year. The retail price of a new Chevrolet car was \$682 for the standard model and \$785 for the deluxe model. Sales for the remainder of 1936 were 87 new units.

Chevrolet declared Belton as open for a dealership in September, 1938 and offered Fleetwood the opportunity to move his agency from Holmes Park to Belton. He was able to locate a building at 223 Main Street, (rental \$50 per month) and move to Belton in time for the new car showing of 1939 models. This was about the first of October, 1938. The original building was 44 feet by 100 feet and was considered adequate at that time. Not being able to afford a used car lot, the north side of Main Street in the 200 block was used and sometimes cars were parked on the south side. This didn't create too much congestion as the population of Belton was only 973 people.

The business grew and in 1940 M. E. Lomax became a partner in the company and moved to Belton with his wife. This was still a family affair as Lomax and Fleetwood are brothers-in-law.

Next came World War II, Fleetwood spent two years in the armed forces and Lomax ran the agency with only the repair department and parts department open as new car sales were frozen for the duration. They also operated a bus service from Belton to Lake City Munitions Plant.

New truck production was resumed in 1945 and new car production began in 1946. There had been no new cars produced since 1941 and a tremendous backlog of customers had developed. The agency posted a list of all customers signing orders for new cars and filled these orders in the rotation they were taken as new cars arrived. The list grew to tremendous proportions and was not completed until late 1948.

In 1948 the company became involved in the lottery business. The Chamber of Commerce wanted to build a park and call it "Memorial Park". Ives Reid offered to sell the land back of his house and north of the railroad but the C of C didn't have any money. Fleetwood Chevrolet offered to let the C of C.

have a new car to sell tickets on. This was done and enough tickets were sold to pay for the land and give Belton its first park.

In 1949 Fleetwood and Lomax purchased the building they were in from Fred Boehm and the two lots to the west of the building from Mr. and Mrs. George Spear who then were the owners and publishers of The Belton Star-Herald. They built a 4,000 foot addition and remodeled the old garage. Bill Powell and his father, Rodney Powell of Belton did the work.

In 1953, Ed Fleetwood came to work for the company and in 1955 became a partner. The business continued to grow and needed more working space. The building at 106 Commercial was purchased and converted into a body shop and a building on East North Avenue was purchased and used car reconditioning was done there.

Fleetwood and Lomax retired in 1968 and Ed Fleetwood purchased the entire dealership.

A number of Fleetwood employees have been with the company a number of years. According to Claude Fleetwood, their years of loyal service helped make the overall stay possible.

Orville Atchison, the first mechanic, was employed from 1936 to 1968; E. T. "Jack" Weeks, the first service manager; Ira Fanning 1940 until his death in 1964; Mrs. Pauline Limpus, head bookkeeper, 1941 until her retirement in 1963, Mrs. Betty Jursch, head bookkeeper 1962-1972.

The following people are still with the company: Francis Gore (1946) 26 years; Barker Labe (1947) 25 years; Gerry Saultz (1952) with time out for armed service, 15 years; Owen Pierson (1952) 20 years; Robert Toliver (1956) 16 years; Gene Radford (1959) 13 years; Joe Nodine (1961) 11 years. This group has a total of 126 years service or an average of 18 years per person, During this time, Beltonhas grown from a town of 973 population to a small city in excess of 12,000 and Fleetwood Chevrolet Company has sold something over 10,700 new cars and tracks and approximately 17,000 used units. It is now the third oldest Chevrolet Dealership in the Kansas City area with a continuous family ownership.

The original garage building on Main Street was sold to the City of Belton in January 1972 and is now the new home of the Belton Police Department and the Belton Fire Department.

Dryden Drug Store



Inside of Dryden Drug Store as it looked in earlier day. Present walk-through would be at extreme right of picture.

Starting a business during the depression could not be considered an ideal situation. However, that is how Dryden Drug Company in Belton began over 40 years ago. Jack and Elizabeth Dryden purchased the Cunningham Drug Store on the northeast corner of Main and Walnut in November 1931.

Jack had graduated from the Kansas City School of Pharmacy in 1925 and had been working for his father, Fred Dryden, who owned and operated a drug store in Lee's Summit. Jack commuted from his home in Lee's Summit to Belton until 1935 when he decided to move his family to Belton. The Drydens packed their belongings in their 1930 Marquette and moved to their home on the corner of Third and Walnut.

The drug store at that time occupied only the front half of the lower floor of the corner two-story building on Main. The Drydens bought the Bradford building next door which housed the Bagshaw Clock Repair and Ikie Shroyer Barber Shop in 1939. The building was remodeled with an opening



Jack Dryden (inset), present owner of Dryden Drug Store and on right, the store front as it looked in earlier years.

being cut through the two buildings. The soda fountain, a popular place to gather, featured curb service and thick ice cream malts. Store hours were 7:30 a.m. until midnight.

After the war, the Weeks Jewelry Co. got its start in a corner of the store and large appliances were added as another department. In 1952 the adjacent building, housing a grocery store, was bought from J.P.L. Jones. The wall between the buildings was removed to give today's frontage of 72 feet in 1956. When the present fountain was installed, nine-cent sodas drew hundreds to the grand opening.

Another remodeling was undertaken with an addition to the back of the building to square it up with the alley in 1966, Carpeting was added, along with paneling above the wall fixtures.

At the present time, Dryden is still interested in the business but is retired from active duty.

His son, Jack C. Dryden, also a pharmacist, came into the business in 1954 and is now the manager.

The store employs four pharmacists, along with 20 to 25 clerks and cashiers.

Home Lumber Company



Scenes of the disastrous fire at Home Lumber Company, June 19, 1966.

When the George D. Hope Lumber Co., was destroyed by fire in the late thirties, Frank Hundley, the manager rebuilt on the site of the present Home Lumber Co. 308 Walnut St. Frank Votova purchased the company on Sept. 15, 1942 and took possession Jan. 1, 1943. According to Frank, "times were rough and lumber was scarce and sold on priority only, so I resorted to farming, cattle and horse trading to make ends meet."

There wasn't enough lumber to put in the lumber bins so the sheds were revamped for cows, horses and pigs until Votova rented the Brown Brothers farm on Y Highway south of Belton. The Old Swampy schoolhouse was situated on the property and Votova used the school house for a corn bin. During a bad flood in 1945, the farm was flooded and on a Friday night, it took three calves downstream and the next night it took eight cows, fences and all and left one cow hanging in the crook of a tree causing the cow to hang herself when the water receded.

The stock that was left had no place to graze so Votova loaded it up intending to haul it to the Kansas City Stockyards for sale. Jim Miller of the Western Auto Store, came along and offered to trade the Belton Truck Line for what was left. Votova took him up on the offer. Hauling freight to Kansas City gave him a chance to locate hard toget items and little by little he increased his stock of hardware and lumber items. Votova operated the truck line for about three years and then sold to Kenneth L. Swigart who eventually expanded and is still owner of the B&H Freight Line (Belton-Harrisonville).

Votova purchased the Andy Sears property after the war and built the present Ford garage. In Frank's words, he "lost his shirt when he traded the garage for an orange grove in the Rio

Grande Valley, Texas."

The lumber yard was heavily damaged by fire June 19, 1966 and has been rebuilt.

Little Shirt Company

Little Shirt Company was incorporated in Missouri in 1945 and the company began business in Belton during that year. They have been at their present address 411 Main Street for more than 25 years.

The company is engaged in the manufacture of better boys shirts and the product enjoys a national market. The garments are mainly sold to department stores, children's shops and specialty stores.

The original incorporators still manage the business. Lucy Wilson Dunlap, a granddaughter of George W. Scott, the founder of Belton is president. The other officers and directors are her husband and daughter, Richard L. Dunlap and Frances Scott Dunlap.



Little Shirt Company, 411 Main Street

Belton Grain Company



Belton Grain Company, 507 Walnut St., as it appears in 1972.

Under only two sets of owners, The Belton Grain Co. has been a part of Belton since 1937. Maurice and J. W. Robie started the company that year and in 1940 they bought the grain elevator that was at Daugherty, Mo. They took it apart and reassembled it in Belton at the present location. The business

had been on the west side of Hy-Klas Food Store.

In the early years the company sold coal too, some 50 to 75 carloads a year until the advent of natural gas. Dairy farms were numerous in the area ranging from 10 to 100 head and a large business was done within a 10 mile radius of Belton.

Bob Buerge bought the business in 1953 and his brother, Frank, became a partner in 1959. They also have a grain company in Harrisonville.

Bob remembers when they first took over, that they dealt primarily in feed and grain. Through the years, the large farms have dwindled, but he notes that now there are more small acreage owners and horses have replaced the dairy cattle. He estimates the company now sells more horse feed than they ever did feed for the dairy herds.

Their business in fertilizer has grown, they handle the comparatively new anhydrous ammonia. They also have added lawn and garden supplies and a tack shop.

The cut back in train service to Belton has affected them somewhat. Almost all of their grain was shipped by rail, now the biggest percentage goes by truck.

The company also manufactures their own brand of feed, grain storage facilities have been increased by 20,000 bushels and the warehouse space has been tripled.

E.K. George & Sons

E. K. George and George Mosley became partners in a hardware, furniture and undertaking establishment in 1909.

The hardware section of the store was one-half of the present Steinbrueck furniture store. George sold the furniture part of the store to Hobart Thompson who sold to G. G. Steinbrueck in 1929.

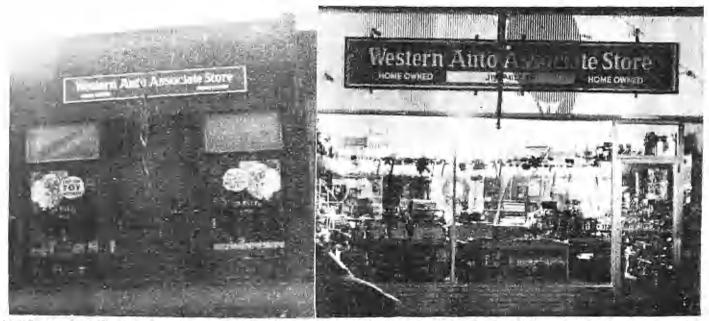
At the present time Richard E. George, son of E. K. Is the present director of the George Funeral Home in Belton, S. E. Goddard is director of the George Chapel in Grandview:

Weeks Jewelry

Weeks Jewelry Store has been located on Main Street since 1947, when Wayne "Red" Weeks opened a small watch repair business in a corner of Dryden's Drug Store. He had served in the Ninth Air Force during World War II. From there the business was moved to 307 Main and about 15 years ago the move was made to the present location at 313 Main Street. Through the years, a variety of lines of fine china, crystal and silver have been added. Watch repair is still an integral part of the business. Red's wife, Vida, was an active part of the business until her tragic death as the result of an automobile accident in May, 1971.



Western Auto Store



At left, the first Western Auto Store, and at right, how it looked after remodeling by Jim Miller. Both pictures were taken during the Christmas season.

The Western Auto Associate Store has been a member of Belton's business community since July 15, 1945. Jim and Blanche Miller, still residents of Belton, opened the store at 406 Main St. in a building then owned by R. J. Koontz but what was known as the Bill Hargis building. Jim purchased the building from Koontz in 1954, remodeled it and continued to operate the store until 1960 when it was sold to Delmar and

Juanita Wayman. The Wayman's expanded the business and built the large brick building at 401 Main St., moving to that location in April, 1968.

In April of this year Allan and Jake Jones bought the store from the Wayman's, who retired to a farm south of Belton near Cleveland. The Jones' are life-long residents of Belton and both attended Belton Schools.

Belton Animal Hospital



Dr. E. L. Montgomery, bought the veterinary practice of Dr. H. L. Bussong in October, 1948. Dr. Bussong had practiced in Belton for a number of years.

Dr. Montgomery conducted the practice from a garage behind Dr. Bussong's house on the corner of North Scott and Spring Streets for some time. He and his wife, Tory, lived on the old Jones farm, east of Cedar and Third Streets when they first came to Belton, Dr. Montgomery had been a captain in the veterinary corps during World War II.

Remembering the changes that have taken place in the last 24 years, Montgomery said when he began practice in Belton, he was a large dairy practioner, caring for some 100 dairy farms. Now there are only three. The first year he was here, 50 rabies tags for small animals were given out. Now they handle some 1500 a year.

Thirteen or 14 years ago, Montgomery bought the lot from Henry Mucke at 511 Main St., which had been Mucke's blacksmith shop for a number of years. A new building was erected on the lot and the practice is conducted from the same site today.

Catron's Furniture and Appliance

Beginning with an auto repair garage at 106 Commercial during 1950, Herb Catron added a few appliances, just to see if they would sell.

In 1953 the business moved to 505 Main where he handled appliances and offered a furniture-ordering service. While Herb worked at Westinghouse, his wife, Lena, ran the store. If customers wished to purchase furniture, the Catrons took them to the warehouse in Kansas City to pick out what they wanted. He then delivered the furniture to the customer's homes.

Another move, this time to 419 Main, found them again stocking appliances and adding some furniture.

In 1948 the Catrons purchased the building formerly occupied by the Grace Company, and since then have expanded to cover the half block from 311 to 319 Main. Handling furniture and both large and small electrical appliances, they also maintain a service department for their customers. Cletus Rotert has been with the company as a service man for over 16 years.

With six employees, the Catrons are observing their twentysecond year in business.



Herb Catron in front of his store at 419 Main in 1957.

Joe's Oil Company



Joe's Apco Station as it appears today.

Joe's Oil Company at 1008 North Scott, the first business on that street was started in 1944 by Joseph Pusateri who had brought his family from Kansas City to a farm near Jaudon, south of Belton in the middle thirties.

His son, Joe Pusateri, Jr. had started working on automobiles in Kansas City garages when he was only 13 years old. His early jobs were cleaning up tools and parts. He attended Lathrop Trade School and learned the fundamentals of the then new automobiles. He remembers working on Packards, Stanley Steamers and the old Franklins with their air-cooled engines. When he first came to Belton, he worked for Temple Forrest who had the Ford agency, located where Hy-Klas Food store now is.

The station on North Scott has handled different brands of gasoline over the years, starting out with "visible tanks" in which the gas had to be pumped before a car tank could be filled. They held only 10 gallons of gas, customers wanting more gas than that, had to wait for the gas to be pumped into the "seethrough" tanks first.



Joe Pusateri, Sr. outside the original station about 1946.

Joseph, Sr. died in 1965 and Joseph, Jr., and his son Joseph A. continued to work together until recently, when Joseph A. assumed sole ownership. His father commented that long ago he was taught, "the customer is always right" and he has tried to operate his business on that premise through the years.

Ted's Belton Cleaners

Moving back to Belton from Harrisonville, Mo., Ted R. Beeghly and his wife, Marguerite, opened the Belton Cleaners in October, 1948.

Belton's population of 1,200 had no cleaning shop at that time. Operating as a team for a couple of years, the Beeghlys found business growing to the extent that they needed help. Mrs. Lela Handley was the first of many who have aided them. She is still a resident of Belton, now employed by the Post Office. Present employees are Mrs. Irene Anderson and Mrs. Lela Fletcher, who have been with the Beeghlys over 18 years.

Styles, fabrics, and methods have changed; but looking back over 24 years, the Beeghlys recall that many of their present-day customers were among those who came in on opening day back in 1948.

Home Oil Company



Shown in front of the original Home Oil Station (301 Main) are Donald Summers (center), now a partner and sales manager; Bob Huggins (left) and Paul Limpus. The picture at right shows the station as it appears today. It has been operated by Bob Sevy since 1959.

In the middle twenties J. W. Kennemer founded the Home Oil Co. in Belton. At the end of World War II, the company was sold to Walter Summers and his sons, Donand Kenneth, who are still active in the business as are two other sons, Bob and Harold.

The original location was on the corner where Bob Sevy's Skelly Station is now. The offices were then moved to the present location, 305 Main, about 1950.

The company is a wholesale distributor of petroleum products and automotive products to a lesser degree. When the Summers family took over the business the emphasis was on service stations and tank wagon deliveries to farms. With the decline of farming operations in the area, the tank wagon deliveries are now a minor part of the operation.

Steinbrueck's Furniture



Shown with Jun Steinbrueck (center) inside the furniture store in 1947, are Clarence Ashbaugh (left) and Bob Hendricks. On right, a view of the store-front at that time.

Observing their 44th year in Belton, the Steinbrueck family holds a distinctive record as the oldest continual retail store operated by the same family in Belton.

G. G. Steinbrueck began the business in 1929 at the present location, 316 Main St. The combined hardware and furniture business occupied 2,400 square feet of floor space compared to the present figure of 11,000 square feet. Steinbrueck retired in January, 1962 and the operation was turned over to sons, Jun and Bob.

The original store occupied about one-half the present ground space. The store was doubled in size in 1934 and in 1956 the upstairs was converted into a showroom. That same year, the hardware section was divided into a separate business and operated at 311 Main St. until that portion of the business was sold in 1965.

The company now specializes in furniture, appliances and accessories. Jun joined the business in April, 1946, and Bob, in 1949.

Belton Dry Goods





Mrs. Clea (Walter) Crow with Mary K. Chamberlain and Glen Jones, taken about 1940 inside Belton Dry Goods. At right, a prize winner in a national contest, this window at Belton Dry Goods was decorated by the employees standing in front of it in 1941. Shown (I to r) are Tom Keeney, Mary K. Chamberlain, Phoebe Trotter McKee and Don Phillips.

The store building at 322 Main has housed a dry goods store for over 70 years. Founded by A. Rosier, it remained in the Rosier family until 1938 when W. H. (Harold) Kratz and Walter W. Crow bought it. Crow managed the store for some time and then Charles Casper, another long-time resident of Beltontook over managerial duties. Kratz was never involved in the day to day operation of the store but Mrs. Kratz was. Eventually they bought out Walter Crow's interest and became sole owners,

until 1950 when the store was sold to Murray and Esther Rosenthal. The Kratz' are still residents of Belton.

Murray was a native New Yorker who had been in the fur manufacturing business before coming to Belton. Esther was a Kansas City, Kans, native.

The Rosenthal's are still active in the business today and through the years have taken an active part in many of Belton's civic endeavors.

John Klaus and Sons

John N. Klaus, a German immigrant who had served his apprenticeship in that country, came to Greenwood, Mo. in 1921 and built 7,500 square feet of greenhouses. He had been with the old Premiere Rose Gardens in the Chicago area before settling in Greenwood. Also in the twenties, he bought some land north of Belton, with future expansion in mind.

His son, Barney, fresh out of service in the Army and several years at Ohio State University, came to Belton in 1947 and built on the land a home and three greenhouses.

John N. Klaus died in 1956, but his sons, Barney and John W., both raised in the business, and their mother, Wally, carry on the greatly expanded business today. At Greenwood there is now 110,000 square feet of greenhouses. The company, known until 1954 as the Graceland Greenhouses, was changed to John Klaus and Sons.

Barney, who is the engineering half of the partnership, has installed a world of chugging motors, humming fans and electronic relay boxes in the greenhouses. In an article in The Kansas City Times in 1969, John B. Lower, Jackson County extension horticulturist, called the Klaus greenhouses one of the fastest growing, most highly automated agribusinesses in the metropolitan area.

John Klaus commented that "We plant by hand, pinch back by hand and harvest by hand, but otherwise it's almost entirely an automatic operation."

Rosebushes grow in beds 200 feet long, polyethylene watering pipes run the length of the waist-high lily benches and tubes spaced at regular intervals water the individual plants. Each bench has its own clock-timer to turn on the water and its own breaker relay to turn it off. Plastic baffles (drop curtains) divide the long greenhouses into six sections. Each has its



Mrs. John N. Klaus and sons, John and Barney.

own thermostat, making it possible to maintain six different temperatures in one house.

Barney and his wife, Barbara, have six children. They are: Barney, Jr., Patty, Joanne, Barbara, Rosemary and Joe. Barney Jr., and Patty are both active in the b_siness. Patty manages the retail shop, also located on the hill that John N. Klaus bought some 50 years ago.

Belton Ice and Locker



The original ice plant in 1924

Eli Wilhite and his family came to Belton in February, 1924. He built the Belton Ice Company plant and had it in operation in the spring of that year. It was built on the Frisco Railroad right-of-way at 506 Chestnut St. Until the plant could serve all the ice that was needed in the community, ice was shipped in from Olathe, Kans. in car load lots by rail. In a few years, the plant was enlarged from seven to 14 ton per day capacity.

Ice from the plant was sold to distributors who delivered

ice to the areas of Raymore, Peculiar, Freeman and some to Grandview.

Later, the large ice storage rooms were used to store apples in the winter months. These were shipped from Washington state and Colorado. They were sold to Independent Kansas City grocers.

When frozen food lockers were installed in 1942, the ice company became the Belton Ice and Cold Storage Company. Beef and meat processing were added to the operation.

Wilhite retired in 1966 after selling the locker plant to C. J. Chevalier, the present owner,



The ice and cold storage plant today.

Wear Electric

John Wear, who was manager of the telephone company in Belton for a time, started his own electric service company in 1950. He remembers his first customer was W. F. Ellison.

From 1951 to 1953, Ralph Lamar, a plumber and Wear shared a building at Main where the Belton Recreation is now.

During 1954 and *55, The Wear Electric Co. office was in a room of the Home Laundry Co. (present site of C and E Cleaners, Main St.) Mildred Houston, who is a familiar face at the post office now, was the owner of the laundry at that time. The next two years, Wear shared space with the Home

Laundry in the present location of the laundry, 521 Main Street. Then, as more space was needed, the company rented space from Shawhan and Herndon at the present location of Hy-Klas Food Market. The offices were on the west side of the grocery store, with an entry from the parking lot.

Another move was made to the Paul Wyatt building (present site of the Harmon Bus Service offices.) Then in 1966, a new building was completed across the street at 608 Main, where the company offices are today.

Jack's Tune Up

E. T. (Jack) Weeks opened a service station at 224 Main St. in 1941 when gas was 14 cents a gallon with a two cent profit margin; you could get a tire fixed for a quarter and a complete engine overhaul for \$35.

Two early employees were Leo Quick and Rollin Ashbaugh who for \$30 per week, worked an average of 55 to 60 hours a

week,

In the late 40's, Weeks built the building at 106 Com-

mercial Street and started a tune-up service.

The present building at 508 No. Scott was built in 1956 and the building on Commercial Street became the Fleetwood Chevrolet Body Shop.

Jack retired in 1965 and the business was taken over by his daughter Pat, and her husband, Gail Dunkin. During the past year, the third generation has become a part of the company, when the Dunkin's son, Gregg, joined the business.

The Grace Company

A daughter's rebellion against wearing boys' overalls out to play, and a mother's talent for designing, and making pretty, practical and feminine play clothes to replace the boyish overalls was the beginning of the highly successful and unique business that is The Grace Company in Belton.

Grace Wilson Van Brunt, granddaughter of Belton's founder George Scott, had started making baby aprons in her Kansas City home in 1930. By 1932, she had a small group of used power machines in the basement of her home.

After making some of her original playclothes for daughter, Margaret, it occurred to her that if she had a problem, other mothers must too. She packed up a suitcase of half a dozen of Margaret's play clothes and took them to Emery, Bird, Thayer's, one of Kansas City's large department stores. The store ordered dozens of play clothes and gave the new company a name, "The Grace Company."

From 1930 until 1937, activity in the Van Brunt household had increased until eight women were operating used power machines in the basement daily. Grace and her husband, John, decided to go to St. Louis to see if a St. Louis store might like her wares. They liked them so well that the Van Brunt's went on to Detroit and New York, and came home after two



Mrs. Grace Wilson Van Brunt

days with over \$30,000 worth of orders, no credit, no materials and no money. Some way the orders were filled. When the reorders started to come in, she decided to expand and Belton's Chamber of Commerce entered the picture.

Belton was then like a lot of other small towns in Missouri, The price of land, hogs, cattle, wheat and corn, had gone steadily downward as taxes went up. The depression years had taken their toll. A special committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce had investigated several industries but for one reason or another, none suited, Finally, someone thought of Grace Wilson Van Brunt and her young company. Grace and her brother and sisters had grown up in Belton. What better than for a hometown girl to bring her company back to Belton?

The Chamber of Commerce held an open meeting for townspeople on a June night in 1937. Everybody spoke his mind before a vote was taken. The eighty men and women present voted unanimously to bring the Grace Company to Belton.



First home of The Grace Company, Belton City Hall.

The next day, a committee composed of J. P. L. Jones, Frank Hundley and Russell L. Mullen, covered the town for contributions. In 24 hours, in a town with a population of less than 1,000, some \$2,779.50 was raised in cash. Those that couldn't give money, donated labor amounting to \$118.50. Businesses and individuals alike made donations. They ranged in amounts from \$5 to \$100. Moving costs amounted to \$2,093, 97. The remaining \$685.53 was pro-rated back to contributors and in 1945 The Grace Company returned to the donors the money used in establishing the plant here.

For offices and factory space, the company used City Hall facilities. The picture show was moved out of its quarters there to an empty building down the street and the Grace Company moved to Belton on Aug. 12, 1937.

The only thing the Chamber requested in return for rentfree quarters for a year was Grace's promise to employ as many Belton people as possible,

The Chamber committee spent \$400 to fix up the building for the movie and a two-year rent-free contract for that business was negotiated. A new floor was put in city hall and a sewing school was set up for Belton women to train them as machine operators.

When the company needed first-hand information on children's sizes, (this was before the day of government standard sizes), the superintendent of schools invited Grace to visit the grade school and weigh and measure every child in school. A Belton doctor offered his scales and helped record



Present home of the company on West Mill Street.

the data. Whenever babies or children were needed for models or to try on clothes for fit, local children were taken to the factory after their afternoon naps. None of the models were paid, but there was keen rivalry for the honor.

Eventually the operation expanded into other stores along Main Street until an entire block was in use between Chestnut and Walnut Streets. The economy of Belton, hard-hit by the depression, took an upward swing and more and more found employment with The Grace Company.

In 1941, The Grace Company designed the first "Crawler." It was a baby overall made in sizes S-M-L-XL and took babies out of dresses. The "Crawler" made the company internationally famous as orders came from places like New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, Dallas, and Hollywood. Buying The Grace Company merchandise were stores such as Saks Fifth Avenue, and Lord & Taylor in New York; Neiman-Marcus, Dallas; and Marshall Fields, Chicago, As the industry developed it received write-ups in national magazines, among them, The American, Chicago Sunday Tribune, The St. Louis Post Dispatch and Coronet Magazine in 1950 carried an article called "Escape from the City." In addition, babies wearing Grace Company garments have appeared on the covers of Life and in advertisements for various products in many national magazines for nationally-known companies. One Life cover featured one of Prince Rainer and Princess Grace's children of Monaco in a Grace Company creation.

At one time there were branch factories operating in Rich Hill, Clinton and Harrisonville.

A new building was built in 1956 on land west of town on Mill Street which had originally been the Scott & March farm. Today, Mrs. Van Brunt is still active in the business as is her daughter and son-in-law Margaret and Julian Rymar.



Cars were replacing the borses and buggies along Main Street in the 1920s.

The Twenties

By J. Weldon Jackson

As the "Twenties" came to Relton a few over 900 souls called it home. It was much the same as other towns of that size that nestled in the midwest. In September, 1920 we moved from south of town into the city of Belton and to my recollections this is what we found: three churches, Methodist (South), Baptist and Christian. Hitchracks were still being used. Buggies and wagons, along with Model T's, Reos, and Chevys filled Main Street. Two weekly newspapers, the Belton Star and the Belton Herald vied with each other to tell us where the Smiths spent Sunday. The Kansas City Star-Times and the Kansas City Journal-Post furnished us world news. (Remember no radios yet). Daily newspapers were delivered by boys on bicycles twice a day, 65¢ a month.

There were two meat markets—they sold meat only and did most of their own butchering. World War I had been over a little more than a year. A lot of swaggering veterans were evident who had replaced the old Civil War veterans with their tales of Gay Paree. There were five grocery stores on Main Street (they didn't sell fresh meat). Home deliveries were made, some by horse and wagon, others used new fangled trucks or

just Model T's.

Prohibition was in effect, so liquor had to be obtained by prescription or from the ever popular bootlegger. Home Brew (beer made at home) and elderberry wine (also made at home) was in vogue. Harding was elected president. Although very few had heard of him six months before, they could tell you he handily defeated "what's his name". Calvin Coolidge was the new vice. Silent Cal came later.

In Belton there was no city water. Most of downtown Belton was served by wells - one located next to the present Mosby Insurance (408 Main) in a then vacant lot and one by the Robie Brothers Building on Walnut between Main Street and the Depot. Most business houses had a bucket of water and a dipper for public use. There were watering troughs available for the horses.

All churches had Sunday night services and Wednesday night prayer meetings. The present city hall which was built in 1906 was used chiefly for entertainment. Two shows a week, Thursday and Saturday nights. They were well attended, Silent pictures. Mary Pickford, America's Sweetheart; Fatty Arbuckle and Harold Lloyd, the comics; and Cara Bow, the "It" Girl were popular.

Several nice apple orchards were west of town. Hoboes, men of the road, were prevalent. They walked the roads and the railroad tracks and would warm up at the pot-bellied stove at the depot. They knocked at the kitchen door for a hand-out and were seldom turned away,

Cigarettes were called coffin nails, Spittoons were in most business places. There were three restaurants in town. The usual fare at noon for dinner was roast beef and roast pork. On alternate days it would be changed to roast pork and roast beef. Each restaurant had a soda fountain, Ice cream sodas were popular and milk shakes were made with ice instead of ice cream. Instead of electric mixers they were hand shaken. Coke was just becoming popular. It was looked on with askance by some as it might prove to be habit-forming!

Two drug stores, H. Cunningham and Son and Sams and Meador took care of the medical needs of the community. School books were purchased at Sams and Meador, Soda fountains were installed in them in the mid twenties.

Belton was a veritable small Las Vegas of the twenties, Boys kept "Uncle Liner" (James Jones) pretty busy chasing them out of box cars where they learned how to shoot craps (dice). The cream station was a popular place to pitch pennies at the crack. The Ideal Cafe (where Little Shirt Co. is now, 411 Main) was a popular place to gather in front of to pass the time of day and to play"fly-lite". This game was played by each boy placing a coin in front of himself, and if a fly lit on your coin first, you were the winner of the rest of the coins. I found by putting sugar in my pocket and mingling the coins with it, they became more attractive to the flies.

At the turn into the twenties, basketball fever hit our town with a bang. Games were played in the city hall. The floor was slanted for the shows. Seats were moved after each performance. In the year 1920-21 Belton had an excellent girls team and a winning boys team. Crowds would start getting in line at 6 o'clock. Space was at a premium. A special train was run to Harrisonville to carry the crowds. Our team won every game except one. Raymore defeated us on their court, but we won playoff game at Lee's Summit. We were county champions and then district champions.

Tent shows, that drew big crowds, came to Belton in the summer time. Gas pumps were on the sidewalks in front of garages. The garages were converted livery stables. The

- 79



The 1921 championship basketball team. First row (seated), Lawrence Blair and John Reid. Second row (kneeling), Leonard Elstner, Kenneth Handley and Harry Meador. Third row, Albert Reid, Clay Pettus, George Wood and Coach J. L. Campbell.

jitney was still running to Kansas City and the bus was making regular runs. Grocery stores opened at six to seven in the morning, stayed open until seven or eight each night and to midnight or later on Saturday nights. Barbershops were open early and late. People of importance had their own shaving mugs. Haircuts were 40 cents, shaves 20 cents. Each barbershop had a bathtub for public baths, 35 cents with soap and towel.

In 1920 Minnie Beery was the eighth grade teacher. In her class you could learn art, millinery, diagraming, spelling, arithmetic and Shakespeare. Each year she would have the eighth grade put on a Shakespearian play, costumes and all, at the city hall building. In 1921 the superb performance was the Merchant of Venice, which was an outstanding success.

During the twenties several small one-room country schools were in operation. Swampy to the south and Pleasant Prairie a few miles south of that. High Blue to the west, Mt. Pleasant, south on Holmes and Pleasant Valley on south. Most of the graduates of these schools would come to Belton to high school, if they went to high school at all. They come on horseback, buggies, cars and at least one school bus was in operation in the mid-twenties. There was no lunch program in the schools.

Two funeral parlors were operated along with furniture stores. The clothing stores and shoe stores were well stocked, Ice wagons were popular as they went from house to house. Women and girls began having their hair cut in the barbershops, up until then a man's domain. One day a girl was seen riding down Main Street in a rumble seat of a car smoking a cigarette. It was a shocking experience.

In September 1922 we occupied the new school house, We had the largest and nicest gym in Cass County.

Barnstorming pilots brought their planes into Belton, usually landing in the Wyatt pastures. It cost \$10 to take a ride

The Kansas City Blues was our baseball team. They played in the American Association. The Kansas City Monarchs also thrilled large crowds. Girls dresses, like their tresses, were up one year, down the next. It was not unusual to hear some girls in the hardware store, ask for a left handed monkey wrench.

Snipe hunting was popular, crystal radios started to make appearances about this time in 1922-23. Later in the twenties the favorite coffee break talk was what stations you were able to reach on your radio the night before.

W. E. Smith was superintendent of schools in the early twenties. He was also the girls basketball coach. He was a strict disciplinarian, a wonderful teacher, a good administrator. He left in 1923 for greater fields. Belton's only woman superintendent of schools was Hazel Slusher (later Mrs. Estell O'Dell). She finished out the 1924-25 school year. Basketball remained very popular at school, as we didn't have football. Our girls teams during the twenties were superb, but our boys teams did not achieve the success of the 1920-21 team.

Another favorite topic of conversation was "could you make Dodson hill in high in your new car?" Radio made considerable changes in our mode of life.

In the later twenties, popular programs were the Philco hour, Amos and Andy, Paul Whiteman, Morton Downey, The Lucky Strike Orchestra, Rudy Vallee and Graham McNamee. It brought us the news of President Harding's death in office—"Silent Cal" became president. Sports stars were numerous, Babe Ruth in baseball; Gertrude Ederle swam the English



Looking out of the windows of one of the first school busses in 1924 are _____Pugh, Carl Ray, Merl Hundley, Hazel Sears Groh and Kitty Louise Alderson. In front are, Lois Jackson, Thelma Ray, Marjorie Dunseth Feeback, a Magee twin, Anna Marie Dunseth and the other Magee twin.

Channel in 1926; Johnny Weissmuller, also in swimming; Knute Rockne and Notre Dame; Red Grange at Illinois; Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney in boxing; Bill Tilden and Helen Wills in tennis; Bobby Jones in golf. Radio and the daily papers brought us closer to these stars. Belton then, as today, was very sports conscious.

In the middle to later twenties our access to Kansas City was considerably better. Busses ran more frequently. Prohibition was failing to control the liquor situation. Wine and home brew could be purchased without too much trouble. Scrips (prescription for alcohol) could be obtained from some doctors for fifty cents. Al Capone and his like were common household words.

Newspapers put new vigor into public print. The Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, The National Geographic, the Literary Digest, The True Story, True Confessions, College Humor, Atlantic Monthly and The Country Gentleman were popular magazines. They brought us lurid news and pictures from the outside -- like the Ruth Snyder electrocution for killing her husband, Annie Sempler McPherson, the Evangelist and her supposed kidnapping, the struggle to free Floyd Collins from being

trapped in the cave in Kentucky, the saga of Daddy and Peaches Browning, the death of movie star, Rudolph Valentino, the Loeb-Leopold thrill murder of fourteen year old Bobby Franks. Defense counsel Clarence Darrow saved them from certain execution.

Evangelist Billy Sunday was popular. More Belton young ladies smoked on occasion. Belton shows were still popular and many Beltonites used our better cars and highways to attend the Mainstreet, the Newman, the Empress and other popular shows in Kansas City. The old Electric Amusement Park was replaced by Fairyland. It was very popular. Belton manned a good baseball team in several different locations, and a town basketball team. Raymore, Peculiar, Cleveland, Harrisonville, Pleasant Hill, and Lee's Summit were our mortal enemies in sports combat.

Hobo Day was a popular high school day. The Mulligan stew at the K. C. - Southern trestle was a crowning event, as was the junior-senior day when the seniors would try to retain possession of the senior flag from the maurading juniors. Sometimes it was rather brutal.

Flappers were numerous. More high school graduates went to college. The active Belton Ku Klux Klan group of the early twenties became less active in the later twenties. Will Rogers became very popular.

The Republican National Convention was held in Kansas City in 1928. Herbert Hoover was the nominee after Silent Cal said, "Ido not choose to run". Al Smith was the Democratic nominee. He was the first Catholic to try for the presidency. Belton, like most small midwestern towns, showed its bigotry.

In the middle twenties, William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow were opposing attorney's in the Scopes trial. It was avidly followed and thoroughly discussed on Main Street, at cases, (which were loafing places) in churches and in the schools.

Fireworks were sold promiscously in Belton. Shooting started two to four weeks before the Fourth. Occasional celebrations were held. In this jazz-age era, many new words were coined, such as cake eater -a ladies man; cheaters -glasses; copacetic -excellent; dogs - human feet; Dumb Dora -a stupid girl; gin mill - a speak easy; neck -to caress; shiek -a young man with sex appeal; gam - a girls leg; flapper -a young girl of the 20's, usually with bobbed hair, short skirts and



The inside of the Ideal Cafe in 1924. Mrs. Iva Worley (right) was owner at that time. Henry Kinnison is shown with her but the woman in center is unidentified.



1. Construction of the Belton water tower at city hall park was started in the twenties. 2. One of the apple orchards west of town. 3. and 4.Mary Jane shoes, long stockings, dolls and big bows were the mark of little girls in the twenties. At left, Mary K. Chamberlain, on right the Daulton sisters, Moriene and Frances. 5. Inside of Walter Hobbs cafe, located on the corner where Citizens Bank is now. 6. A Belton Picture Show advertisement.

rolled stockings.

Things I remember - lish fries at the rural schools and those sponsored by various churches; all day church picnics and all day school picnics; union church services; high school plays; chari varis (a mock serenade for newly married couples), where the new groom must have cigars for the men and boys and candy for the girls and women, or else, and sometimes even if they did have the treats it was "or else" anyway; trying to get the Model T up to 50 miles an hour; swims in the creek in the nude; pretty girls; hard fought baseball games on hot Sunday afternoons; orange crush; the new Green River drink; the time a certain individual cut up real red hot peppers and mixed them with red hots, and passed them around in "trig" class. The teacher took the sack away and filled his mouth. The individual received zero for effort that day: Halloween with planned activities, such as transporting the farm to Main Street; the pushing over of out-houses; the changing of the millipery sign to the blacksmith shop and viceversa; thicker malted milks; hand packed ice cream (both drug stores bad added fountains); rumble seats in cars.

Filling stations started to appear and by the middle to late twenties there was the Home Oil Co. (now Skelly Service), Sinclair, Standard (where Ken's is today), Thompson, and others. A hamburger stand opened on the new 71 Highway (now 58) and Rider's Barbecue stand with its fifteen contsandwich became a

popular place.



This hamburger stand was located on old Highway 71 about where Dave Rents is now across from Twin Oaks Shopping Center.

In the late-late twenties, groceries were still being delivered, ductors made house calls, restaurants and drug stores were still popular gathering places. Hoover was president, and with the Hoover landslide Missouri elected a Republican, Henry Caulfield, governor. Even some of our Cass County officers went Republican. Churches were still attracting most of our citizens, many families now had cars, electric infrigerators were replacing ice boxes, natural gas had come to town and many coal furnaces were being adapted to use gas. Main Street was surfaced, hitch racks were removed. There were no signs of livery stables left and one good blacksmith shop remained. Carry Nation's influence was gone and prohibition's repeal was a topic at most every luncheon. You could still get a good piece of home made pie at most any of the local restaurants for a dime.

Work was scarce and when the pipeline company came to town and put out the call for laborers at 40 cents an hour, over 100 men showed up at the Ideal Cafe for the 30 or so jobs. The stock market crash of 1929 had little direct effect on Belton. Banks in various parts of the country closed but both in Belton remained intact. The Model T Ford was replaced in 1929 by



The 1924 Girls District Champions in basketball. Back row (1 to r) Mary Catherine Sams, Theo March, Morene Harrison, Golda Hendrickson, Harriet Hockaday, Etna McAnally and Florence Houston, coach. Front row, Mildred Reynolds, Mildred Anderson, Caroline Thompson, Myrtle Houston and Fannie March. The play-offs were held in Warrensburg.

the Model A.

It was called the Roaring Twenties. The author thinks of it as the Glowing Twenties, where great strides were made, where age respected youth and youth respected age. It was a good life during the twenties in Belton for those on both sides of the track, and as it wilted away in the thirties and the depression, there was a certain religious and American beritage that made most Beltonites weather the impending storm with courage.

I would like to mention some business enterprises and some names of people who made an impact on me as I changed from a boy of 12 to a young man of 22. Most of those years I spent on Main Street. I am sure that I will miss many, that I wish I could remember. Some of these people awed me, some scared

me and some inspired me.

The Belton Hotel operated by the Leonards and later by Topsy Jackson, a good place to eat. The Ford Motor Co., first by Henry Sullivan and later by Temple Forrest. The A. Rosier and Co., then Rosier-Pettus Dry Goods (Roy Rosier and Walter Pettus). Frank Blair, Sr., of the Bank of Belton, immaculately dressed with his cigar. S. E. "Jerry" Jerard at the Hardware Store, Clarence "Tucky" Reynolds next door at Reynolds grocery, and next door another grocery run by Dave Parrish and his mother. To most youngsters the candy case was the important thing at the Parrishes. It was well guarded. Later in the twenties, Charley Lightcap combined these two stores. He always had a twinkle in his eye.

The Hawthornes, groceries, school supplies, clothing, shoes and what have you. Mr. and Mrs. Hawthorne (Ed and Maude), Jim and Fannie. Many had their lunch in this store — longhorn cheese, bologua and crackers. The variety store run by the Walls. It was Belton's first 5 and 10. S. D. Sprinkle who operated his own store and worked for Hawthornes and was Sunday School superintendent at the Methodist Church, was impressive, as was C. H. G. Sprinkle who operated a furniture store and funeral parlor. Roy L. "Hoopie" Johnston who was in the employ of Rosiers for a long time, then opened his own store. He always had a jolly word or a joke. One day I met him. He was looking very dejected. I asked him his trouble, he said "I feel terrible. Everything I've eaten the last three days has gone to my stomach". Or the day when we were starting to feel the effects of the depression, and I went into his store. He



Allen Mullen is shown in front of the C. H. G. Sprinkle Furniture and Mortuary around 1920. The building, on the northeast corner of Main and Ella, was a twin to the first brick building on the opposite corner. It burned and then that corner later housed the Monroe Feed Co.

was all smiles and he said "you know I made a \$1,000 yesterday." "How", I questioned. "Well" he said, "I raised the price of this store a \$1,000."

Orville Gochnauer, who was rural mail carrier for many years and then postmaster, also operated the picture show for years and was the perennial ticket taker at practically all events. He had an eye that could discern those that somehow got by the gate without paying (I speak from experience). Fred Burkhart of the Citizens Bank and J. E. Mullen, also affiliated with the Citizens Bank, whose second marriage came late in

life and when he had the chari-vari, he just told the crowd to go to any restaurant and get whatever you wanted. I understand the bills were astronomical.

As I graduated from high school in 1925, I speak mostly of those connected with the schools from 1920-25. Superintendent W. E. Smith, Miss Minnie Beery, Hazel Slusher (O'Dell), Forrest Drake, Lynn Bailey, Miss Shelly, J. L. Campbell and others made a lasting impression on me.

Back in the business area — we find Mart Jacoby and Fred Ruch in the blacksmith shop, both, or one or the other. It was a popular, busy place as horses still carried the work load of the farm. Before the advent of gas, wood and coal were used for cooking and heating. Dray wagons run by Howard and Willard Huggins, Tom McKinley, John Jackson and many others were used to transport coal from the railroad tracks to the home.

The drug stores during the twenties were busy places. Sams & Meador and H. Cunningham & Son. The millinery store of Stella Harris, Carl Ryden's shoe store and the barbershops, I. C. Shroyer and the Scroggins and Akus Shop, and later in the 20's the Bert Matthes shop. These were popular hangouts and you could learn all kinds of things while loafing in them. Some good and some ?????

Restaurants opened at 5 to 6 in the morning and would stay open until 10 or later at night. During the twenties three restaurants were in operation on Main Street. The Ideal Cafe had numerous owners during these years, including the writer. It was situated where the Little Shirt Company is now. There is a natural step on the outside. It was a convenient place to sit. After a little grooving, we found we could pour water from the inside and thoroughly wet an innocent sitter before they were aware of it. Age, stability in the community or anything else mattered little when this game was played.

My first job outside of delivering papers and two weeks working as shoeshine boy and porter at Ikey Shroyer's barbershop (I quit after two weeks because I couldn't stand to clean out the bathtub after someone had taken their twice a year bath), was at Steve Nelson's Restaurant (where Citizens Bank is located now.) The first day Steve told me I could have anything I wanted to eat, including delicious iced chocolate candy or the many fountain goodies. For two days I was in seventh heaven and then I was sick for a week. It was several years before I enjoyed either ice cream or chocolate candies. It was an enjoyable interlude and Steve made a lasting impression on me.

It was while working at Home Oil for Jim Kennemer (who



About 1922, Fred Lininger, Sr., (left) was serving his apprenticeship under Ben Hill (right). Hill's Garage was located at 223 Main, where the police and fire departments are now. The man without the cap in picture #2 on page 40 is Marion Harrison, uncle of Tom Keeney and Mary K. Chamberlain. That picture was taken in front of the same garage.



BELTON COMMUNITY LYCEUM.

LOCAL TALENT THIRD NUMBER January 25, 1922

PREMINAL

- Annual over
- Community on a little of the con-
- Mash Or at 215
- in 17866 Mach Day on the grant and the
 - Land Rhomal Stromage I and the V (1) I are supply Double Objections
- La Baladun . J. Serie St. V . m . and Sa-No. vskiifle
- In this tar tell to be
- They Awar, ... to , -1- 4 (t, -1, n)
- Polomago na transa il Santa Poloma
- or Lattie Goly Ham to A Too Late on Gouper
- (1) Keers Sung and Lee Opt 7, 3 , 4 to 10 11 (2) Hamorespo Proc.). Me our Bre 3, 4 for Sungh.
- Or have Stop story by more and 50 are the
- (d. Hodels Day septi
- Radicing to Golds only Mr. P. W. J. v. Mari.
 Notice
- te Calvary W of Library-
- The term billion of the bound of the Starting terms of
- " X Wat on Your by his skill Address was a force
- Lie Main On he tra-

-3-

Jrogram

Dance - Virginia Campbell, Nellie Gladys Lawrence Welcome - - - - -Mary Thompson Response -Bryan Fitzgerald Story of the Rainbow - Harold Rosier
Some Rain Must Fall - Wilbur Wyatt
A Dance - Virginia Campbell, Hazel Pitts
Silver Linings - Leona Alderson At The End of The Rainbow -- Margaret Huber What is Your Color? - - - Mr. Smith Beyond the Rainbow - Dr. Miller Toaslmistress - - - Marguerite Jones

MUSICIANS

Mabel Mullen C. V. Reynolds

Dave Parrish

James L. Pettus Harold Rosier

- 5 -

1. Boys played leap-frog in the twenties -- here the "frog" is Chester Hodkins, and (I to r) is Norman Jacoby, jumping; Ralph Bradley and Tom Keeney. 2. The inside of Steve Nelson's Cafe when Walter Hobbs still owned it. 3. A program from the "Lyceum". 4. The summer band in 1924. Shown are (front row l to r) Ola Mae King, Thelma Ray, Hazel (Sears) Groh, Gladys (Hockaday) Helt, Dave Parrish, Ray Mudel, director; Elma Mae (Coomes) Turk, Elmer Wyrick and Frank Blair. Second row, Walter Lofland, Dewey Wells, Helen Shaw,



Mary Ellen (Noland) Wyatt, Wilbur Wyatt, Harold Rosier. Second from left on the very top row barely discernible is Hackett Reynolds and next to him Jack Parrish. 5. A program from the Junior-Senior Rainbow Banquet, May 5, 1928. 6. The 1923 girls' basketball team. Top row (1 to r) Prof. W. E. Smith, Mildred Anderson, Caroline Thompson, Mary Belle Hendrix, Ruth Jackson, Harriet Hockaday, Fannie March, Mildred Reynolds, Elizabeth Hockaday, Theo March, Ona Enloe, Mary Catherine Sams, Ethel McAnnaly.

- 6 -

was a devout Mason) that I first met Harry Truman.

Others I remember - W. P. Houston, an attorney and perennial mayor of Belton; W. J. Bradford, groceryman, insurance agent and another perennial mayor; George Brawner, who used two chairs when he sat down: Henry Grant who wore \$40 white Stetson hats and was Belton's answer to "Bet a Million" Gates; Frank (Fat) Leonard, a man of many facets, but who liked to loaf, and once when someone remarked that Edison could get by on two hours sleep a night, said he guessed he could do that too, if he could get a full twelve hours at night; George Johnston, a farmer south of Belton who became County Clerk and afterwards Presiding Judge of the County Court. He liked to have someone drive him down Main Street and he would shout at his friends and acquaintances. Auntie Hook, a former slave who lived in a small house across from the old high school. She was the cook at Nelson's, She brought me a possum dinner one Thanksgiving day; John Wilson, a man of dignity.

There are so many others that should and could be mentioned like the pastors of the various churches, the dedicated public servants, the teachers in the schools and the Sunday Schools, and the many un-named who gave the youth of that day an incentive to be a good citizen of Belton and the world.

I will close by saying as the twenties ended the girls



Mattie Hook Jackson and her mother, Aunt Telitha Hook.



I. J. Weldon Jackson in 1923 at the Standard Station (where Ken's is now) 2. The seventh and eighth grades 1921-22. Bottom row (1 to r) Eastman Cheney, Laurence Ryden, Frank Blair, Frances Blair, Scott Keeney, Slyvan Short, Pearl Ashbaugh, Mabel Mullen. Second row, Reva Crest, Emma Lou Muir, Hazel Ambers, Nellie Springate. Third row, Walter Gray, Jack Pennington, Pauline Smith, Lillian Groh, Don Bishop, Emma Walters, Annie Shriver, Carrie Thompson. Fourth row, Floyd Hostetter, Yost Rosier, Ethel Mae Middleton, Lyman

Bishop, Callie Pennington, Marguerite Meador, Myrtle Houston, Helen Herron. Fifth row, Bill Houston, George Miles, Supt. W. E. Smith, Martha Roberts, Miss Minnie Beery, teacher; Paul McWilliams and George Wyatt. 3. Henry Lacy in his eighties mows his lawn the hard way in the twenties. Note the hammock. 4. A new-found mobility was being put to use, despite 'modern' highways. Here Susan Lewis is shown on the way to Arkansas in 1926. They camped along the road on the way.



The Durpha Daughters decorated City Hall Park for Christmas, 1934

The Thirties

By Maurine Wyatt

The depression years hit Beltonhard. That coupled with the droughts and the devastation caused by the grasshoppers put Belton's economy at its lowest ebb since its founding. Belton survived, as did the rest of the nation, but life was not easy for a few years. Through it all, though, Beltonites were active and busy with a variety of civic projects and those that grew up during these years really don't remember the bad times.

Belton at that time was still considered a rural town, depending on the surrounding community for its business. Since agriculture and business were at a low ebb, the town suffered to the extent that the street lights were furned off in the early thirties and left off for at least three years. Water was as big a problem then as it has been in more recent times. Several wells were drilled on the O. H. Anes property to supplement the supply. When the thirties began, G. A. Noland, was serving his third term as mayor.

An optimistic headline in the Jan. 8, 1930, Belton Star-Herald proclaimed, "Belton Prosperity Gates Ajar and Parade Pushing In." The article noted among other things that although farm sales had been quiet, lots of transactions in the past few days showed the barometer pointed to a fast recovery in land values.

The Missouri Power and Light Co. had bought lots from Joe Brown and would soon commence the erection of a very

modern and up-to-date steel sub-station.

The Water Works were the primest improvement any town could make. "Already our people are taking advantage of the splendid quality of water and by spring, nearly every store and home in Belton will be water users.

"And the new Belton Hatchery, it is going to run up a great volume of business and shipping in large quantities all over the USA. It will cause postal receipts to soar here and — who knows— it might lead to a proportion that would make Belton a city large enough for Carrier Service.

"Old Highway No. 71 is full to the brim with traffic and the rock ribbon is now being widened in many places, bringing less danger from curves and facilitating bauling and pleasure mo-

tivity."

E. K. George announced his decision to build a modern funeral home (at the present site) with a chapel seating 250

people, a basement garage and large morgue.

A large dairy institution had taken a three year lease on the King estate, the telephone company was improving their system of lines and had plans to eventually build a new exchange building.

The article also mentioned two fine cafes in Belton and the sale of two farms in Belton, negotiated by Ned Brawner. One was for \$15,000 cash and the other for \$150 per acre for 30 acres, also for cash.

The editor ended by saying, "Look us over folks, isn't Belton sitting pretty? Drive up to the door of Prosperity right here and rap ever so softly and you will be heard, and ushered into the vestibule, and then to the main tent, the ground floor at BELTON, MISSOURI."

The same paper had a notice that the Frisco Railroad would be selling tickets at two cents per mile beginning Feb. 1. Later that month, the city hall picture show, run by Ben Hill, announced admission prices were being lowered to build up better attendance.

And also in that issue, the editor had reprinted the following from an ad in the Saturday Evening Post, written by Carl

Laemmle, the motion picture magnate:

"In a country over-flowing with wealth, the present belief in 'depression' is ridiculous. People who have money are hanging on to it. WHY? People who haven't any and are out of jobs are the sufferers. If you have money, during this period of depression, let go of it. SPEND IT!! Don't be niggardly or cowardly or selfish."

By the next year, in March, 1931, the newspaper had changed its tune somewhat. It commented that the majority of towns and cities were lacking in the spirit of citizenship and local elections. It urged every citizen to become an ACTIVE citizen. An ad for used cars by Hill & Trog listed a 1926 Ford T Sedan special at \$80 and a 1926 Ford T Coupe for \$60. New Fords were selling for \$430 to \$630.

The familiar Main Street scene was altered in February, 1932 when the coal and grain buildings belonging to A. F. Miller were wrecked by fire. The fire department under the direction of James A. Lewis was successful in saving some of the buildings. In April an attempted robbery of Citizens Bank was made around midnight. The nightwatchman, Mr. Savage was ordered into a car and driven around, later returned to the bank and tied up. He was relieved of \$1.50. None of the robbers was found. Chicken thievery was also rather prevalent then.

In May, 1932, the ice company announced lower rates and so did the Chevrolet Service Station. The Christian Church celebrated its 65th anniversary. Miss Frances G. Keeney was

Former Beltonites Picnic In California

More Than Sixty Meet In Long Beach Sunday—Missouri Cook-ing On Long Tables Has Lost None of Its Lure,

(Special Correspondence.)

The fifth Belton, Mo., Picnic was held in Bixby Park, Long Beach, Calif., on Sunday, May 2. More than sixty persons answered the invitations to attend and all had a wonderful time in that beautiful park.

It was a perfect Southern California day and the City of Long Beach had an orchestra to entertain the crowd. Credit for the picnic is due to Mrs. Lex Roberts who always arranges the details, makes the reservations, and forwards the invitations to every Belton resident in Southern California. Everyone is invited to the next one to be held at the same place the first Sunday in October. If you expect to be in California at that time please let Mrs. Roberts know at her address, 713 South Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, Calif.
Missouri cooking still receives

desire to attend the next thanked Mrs. Roberts for the success of this most enjoyable get-together meeting. A list of those attending follows:

Mrs. Alma Allison and son, Lorin Bales, Redman Bales, Mr. and Mrs. Berger, Mrs. Merton Burns, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Cope, Sr., Frank C. Cope, Sr., Frank C. Cope, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Cope, Mr. and Mrs. R. Newton Cope and family, Lon B. Darby, Mr. and Mrs. All. Haney, Mrs. Auna Haney, Mrs. All. Haney, Mrs. Auna Haney, Mrs. Catherine Harrelson, Mrs. Helen T. Catherine Harrelson, Mrs. Helen T. Catherine Harrelson, Mrs. Helen T. Catherine Mindelly, Mrs. Mindelly, Mrs. Auna Haney, Mrs. Helen T. Catherine Mundelly, Mrs. Helen T. Catherine Miss Lora Grimes, Mr. Anna Haney, Mrs.
J. Haney, Mrs. Anna Haney, Mrs.
Catherine Harrelson, Mrs. Helen T.
Harmon, John Huher, Mr. and Mrs.
Byrl Johnson (Blanche Mundell),
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Lindsey
(daughter of E. E. Chandler), Mr.
and Mrs. J. O. Lyon and family
(Catherine Boren), Mr. and Mrs. It.
R. Mundell, Mr. and Mrs. It.
R. Mundell, Mr. and Mrs. It.
R. Mundell, Mr. and Mrs. It.
R. Paisley, E. B. Pitts, G. A. Rose,
Mrs. Lex Roberts, Mary and Bud
Roberts, Mrs. Myrtle Maxwell
Shouller, Mrs. Cora Trullinger, A.
W. Wells, J. J. Wallingford, Mr.
and Mrs. Claude Weadon (Madge
Roberts), Mrs. Quenten Wilson
(Martha Roberts).
Guests: Mr. and Mrs. J. E.
Harriott and family, Betty BeauHarry

Su

Douglas, Miss Betty Thome.

- 88 -



"MEET YOUR FRIENDS HERE FOR A GOOD TIME" CIGARS - CANDY AND CIGARETTES

P. A. KREIGH, PROP.

BELTON, MO.

At as White With Indest Dolly. Story Sursers tance 194300 centing longest Dis-

YOUR SUPPORT IS SOLICITED



G. J. SMITH

Mt. Pieasant Township

Candidate for the Democratic Nomination for Probate Judge of Cass County

Subject to the Democratic Primary, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 1934

mistress of ceremonies. Wrestling matches were being held at the old Golden Rule Garage. Castle and Alden were to battle for honors in the two best out of three match; Kelley and Huggins were in the finish match, and Vest and Handley were to meet in the time limit match.

The Dec. 1, 1932 issue of The Star-Herald announced that the Bank of Cleveland in southern Cass County had closed its doors. The closing was reported as voluntary and that a gradual withdrawal of funds and the inability to collect on collateral caused a general loss of business. The Camp Fire Girls had elected the following officers: Nellie Muir, president; Freda Walker, vice-president; Hazel Marie Blocher, treasurer and D. Carolyn Idol, reporter.

W. A. Holloway of Belton, who was Cass County treasurer, was named revenue clerk in the Anditor's office at Jefferson City. The paper noted that it was the first state Democratic "plum" coming to Cass County as a result of the change in

state administrations.

At the end of 1933, the city financial statement showed receipts to the general fund of \$8,425.27 and disbursements of \$3,860.68 not counting \$2,000 which was placed in a savings account at two per cent interest.

The second railroad serving Belton (The Leaky Roof) was discontinued in 1935, due to a drop in shipments and the fact

that the two lines nearly paralleled one another.

An interesting note still appropriate during these years was the City Council considering the repairing and painting of the hitchracks next to the Croquet Court. These were necessary for the use of farmers during bad weather when they had to depend on their horses to be able to get to town for supplies.

Entertainment in Belton during the thirties were baseball and softball games played by town teams; the movie house at city hall, particularly with the advent of "talkies." As was the case in most rural communities the school functions were the drawing center for general entertainment. There was always in evidence, a great school spirit. The Belton Volunteer Fire Department presented a minstrel show in April, 1934.

A "Miss Belton" was selected to participate in the festivities surrounding the opening of Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. The Lions Club and the Girl Scouts were organ-

ized in Belton for the first time.

It was suggested during these years that Belton had neglected giving the proper recognition to the fact that Carry Nation was a native of the Belton area and buried in the Belton Cemetery. The town of Eureka Springs, Ark. was converting the former Hatchet Hall into a prohibition shrine in her memory. The home was built and used as a school for unfortunate boys and girls during her life time. It was suggested that a highway marker be placed near Belton in her memory.

The public library had its start in Belton during the thirties. A community dinner was held in the Lasley Grocery



The Belton Bridge Club in 1933. Front row (1 to r) are Eldean Wyatt, Leota Scroggins, Elizabeth Starner, Elizabeth Jones. Back row, Dorris Hundley, Ella Mae Turk, Elnora Fay and Kathleen Hankins.



W. D. Harrison and his son, Jack, members of Belton's business community in 1939.

building and 150 people gathered. Judge G. J. Smith was master of ceremonies and he introduced Mrs. Carlton Logan who discussed "The Value of a Public Library." She had given a series of book reviews in homes in Belton prior to the meeting. Wilbur Wyatt led the singing and Mrs. F. S. (Laura) Turner, president of the PTA acted as chairman of the arrangements for the meeting. She was assisted by Mrs.L. V. Bumgardner, Mrs. Walter W. Crow, Mrs. Jack Rynolds, Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. Charles Henderson, Mrs. Russell S. Mullen, Mrs. E. D. Nethaway, Mrs. C. E. Walker, Mrs. Carl G. Ryden, Mrs. R. I. Holloway, Mrs. Nelson Mullen and Miss Mary Essig. The project was estimated to cost \$600, and \$150 was raised at that meeting. The library was officially opened in July, 1936. The opening deremonies featured a program of band music, readings by Mrs. Betty Broucher and a solo by Mrs. E. S. Wilhite.

The library was located in the Cunningbam building on the ground floor. Later in the year, it was visited by Dale

Carnegie, who presented a donation.

By the later years in the thirties, Belton's economy had taken an upturn. New businesses had come to Belton during these years, among them, Fay Hardware, Dryden Drug Store, and Fleetwood Chevrolet. The Grace Company had been brought to Belton in 1937, through the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and many individual citizens. The company provided employment for many local people.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA), also had projects going in and around Belton, including the building of lakes surrounding the town. Lakes were built on the Allen Mullen farm and the Belden farms near Jaudon. Private lakes were built on the William Hargis farm and the James farm, later known as the Kessinger farm. Today it is the site of the Valley High residential development.

Farmers were looking forward to obtaining electricity through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

A community center was being proposed for Belton in 1936, and a new theatre opened in Belton in 1937 at the present site of Citizens Bank, W. J. Bradford was elected mayor in 1939 for the third consecutive time.

Citizens Bank and the Bank of Belton, which had been accepted in 1933 for membership in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, set up by the federal government to guarantee deposits, showed assets of \$184,014.10 and \$236,132.16 respectively in 1939.

The city financial statement in March, 1939, showed receipts in the general fund of \$16,494.62, almost double the 1933 figure.

Belton had weathered the storm and things were looking up.



Members of the Belton High School Band at the American Royal in Kansas City in October, 1938. Pictured are first row (1 to r) Sara Meador, John Reeves, Bobby Roberts, Bobbie Steinbrueck, Bobbie Campbell, Jerry McCulloh, Jimmie Mullen, Bill Holloway and Jim Campbell. Second row, unknown, Alice Turner, Polimoush, unknown, 29 James, Bill Mosby, Frank Turner, Rosalie Beem, Wanda Groce. Third row, George Spear, Jr., Bob Meador, Mrs. Steinbrueck, Jun Steinbrueck, Shirley Reynolds, David Lasley, Sam Birk, director; Chester Meador, Harold Zumwalt, D. N. Groce, ?? Shields, Frances May, Betty Nelson, Mrs. McCulloh, Enid Olson and Mary L. Jones.



Members of one of Belton's 4-H Clubs in 1933, were these girls. Shown (1 to r) are Emma Lucy Wales, Gladys Huggins, Fay Higgins, Emma Jane Reeder, Virginia Nethaway and Helen Bishop.



Members of the Pleasant Prairie School Rhythm Band that tied for first place at a Street Fair in Harrisonville in 1932. Members are front row (1 to r) Gertrude Coombs, Lillian King, Gleen Hughes, and Mae Groh. Back row, teacher Eunice Brown Groves, Jennie Hughes, Leora King, Ernestine Hockaday, Virginia Brennan, Marguerite Johnson, Bill McBeath, Walter Groh, Edward Brennan and Helen Brennan.



Rigs like this were common on farms around Belton in the thirties.

Donors

The following pages contain the names of individuals and businesses whose donations helped make possible the publication of this book.

Century Club Alembers

Grace W. and John Van Brunt, Jr., Kansas City, Missouri

Samuel B. Gregg, Kansas City, Missouri

The Grace Company, Belton, Missouri

Margaret and Julian Rymar, Kansas City, Missouri

Glenn E. Harrison, Belton, Missouri

Mayor and Mrs. J. Wayne Willey

John Van Brunt in memory of his parents Westervelt Orchards — Belton, Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Crouch, Harrisonville, Missouri

Century Club Members

Verne E. and Anna Lee Killinger, Santa Monica, California

The Frank Huber Family

Citizens Bank of Belton

Charlie and Jessie (Sprinkle) Campbell, Scottsdale, Arizona

Ben Harrelson, Santa Monica, California

Bank of Belton

Ann, Gracen, and Gibson Rymar, Kansas City, Missouri

In memory of my brother, Scott Wilson who, no matter where he roamed, Always called Belton home -- by Grace

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Dunlap, Kansas City, Missouri

Centennial Boosters

Mrs. Sallye Scott Hill, Kansas City, Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin C. Adams, Jr., Kansas City, Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. Baker La Mar

Mr. and Mrs. Everett E. Wade

Belton Lions Club

William B. Fullerton, Kansas City, Missouri

Mr. and Mrs. William V. Powell

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blair, Jr.

Griggs Home Furnishings, Owen Stidham, Mgr.

Airways Liquor

Faye Higgins Leader, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. (Duke) Turner

Mr. and Mrs. Earl T. Barr

First Baptist Church of Belton

Emma Mae Reynolds

Mr. and Mrs. Gail Dunkin

Xi Kappa Gamma Chapter - Beta Sigma Phi

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Saultz and Tim

Midge's Apparel Shop - Jim and Midge Huckshorn

Dr. and Mrs. James P. Miles

Reed and Janell Harris

Mr. and Mrs. Clement S. Bertolino

Delmar and Juanita Wayman, Cleveland, Missouri

Belton Christian Church

Belton United Methodist Church

Weldon and Olive Jackson Jacquie - Jeff - Jim

Dr. and Mrs. Peter W. Berger Hal - Melissa - Laura - Mark

Centennial Sponsors

MR. AND MRS. LEO MOSBY AND JIMMY JOE

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT LEE STARK

MR. AND MRS. CLAUDE C. KEENEY DEEPWATER, MO.

MARY CATHERINE SAMS

THE WILLIAM WILSON FAMILY ADAMS RUN, S. C.

DR. AND MRS. ARNOLD EVERSULL
(SUE SCOTT WILSON) SHAWNEE MISSION, KANS.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM E. SEYFRIED AND FAMILY WEBSTER GROVES, MO.

MARY K. CHAMBERLAIN

MR. AND MRS. JOHN C. PERRY

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

C. L. AND BLANDEAU PEEK

MR. AND MRS. ED BRUNNER, BOB. GARRY. DAVID. DANIEL, CINDY, LINDA, REBEKAH

FIREMEN'S LADIES AUXILIARY

BERNIECE ALDERSON WEADOCK.
KANSAS CITY, MO.

XI GAMMA PHI CHAPTER BETA SIGMA PHI SORORITY

MR. AND MRS. ELDON S. MILLER

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS H. KEENEY

MRS. A. F. (MARY) HUNDLEY

ETA NU CHAPTER BETA SIGMA PHI

BELTON JAYCEE WIVES

MARGIE AND KENT DIMICK AND FAMILY

FRANK AND WILMA BENJAMIN JERRY AND FRANKIE

MRS. BYRON T. SHUTZ KANSAS CITY, MO.

FRANCIS AND FRANCES GORE PAT AND KATHY

BELTON UNITED SUPER CAGE AND CARNEY MR. AND MRS. A. L. DODSON

MR. AND MRS. GLENN R. KREISEL BARBARA AND GREGG

MRS. MARTHA HARRELSON JAMES KANSAS CITY, MO.

MRS. JESSE J. MOSBY AND ROBERT

FRED AND MARY ALICE YEAGER

BELTON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

MRS. DEAN SHUBERT

CLINTON AND DORIS LONG

HERBERT AND GLADYS MEADOR

BELTON SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

MR. AND MRS. J. W. WEAR

JIM AND JOAN SHIELDS JENNIFER AND JULIE

MR. AND MRS. CLIFTON FRANK

CARL AND HELEN HENDERSON

ETHEL M. HODGSON, PECULIAR, MO.

(FOR HER PARENTS WILBER AND ETHEL MOORE
LAWRENCE — DESCENDANT OF CARRIE NATION)

MINNIE J. ZUMWALT

MRS. MILTON H. TWENTE, SR. (HATTIE)

DR. AND MRS. THEODORE HIGGINS AND MARK GRANDVIEW, MO.

IOTA PI CHAPTER BETA SIGMA PHI

BERNICE COLLINS

MR. AND MRS. TED R. BEEGHLY

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH J. MAURER MICKI-KATHY-MARY JO- ED-PATTI

OWEN LUMBER CO.

MR. AND MRS. REGINALD M. FAY

MR. AND MRS. A. IVES REID

MR AND MRS. JERRY WRIGHT AND FAMILY (NANCY CAMPBELL, GRANDDAUGHTER OF DAN IDOL) KANSAS CITY, MO.

JAMES R. CAMPBELL (FATHER OF NANCY WRIGHT HUSBAND OF NANNIE IDOL, BELTON, MO.

Centennial Sponsors

ETHEL A. SEBA

DR. AND MRS. E. L. MONTGOMERY

MRS. GEORGE W. WYATT, JR.

FRED AND CHARLOTTE LININGER DONALD-RONALD-STEVEN

SHIRLEY LININGER

SUNRISE TERRACE COMMUNITY IMP. CORP.

MR. AND MRS. HARRIS METHENY AND GLENN O. METHENY, RAYMORE, MO.

MR. AND MRS. BEN BLOOM KANSAS CITY, MO.

MR. AND MRS. FRANK MOSBY

MR. AND MRS. JACK FLEMING

MR. AND MRS. WAYNE A. HARRIS

MR. AND MRS. B. A. MC CAULEY
LAURA AND DANA

MAXINE HENDERSON MOORE

CHARLES WENDELL HENDERSON

MARY AND BILL BARKER

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT V. POWELL

NELLIE ALDERSON MC DANIEL

MR. AND MRS. JAMES L. BARTIMUS

MR. AND MRS. HENRY MUCKE

GINGER TERRIL (GRANDDAUGHTER OF J. B. CAMPBELL)

MR. AND MRS. CHESTER MEADOR

MR. AND MRS. JOE BROSEGHINI

LILLIAN RUSH - TRI-CHEM

WEEKS JEWELRY

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT WALLACE

MR. AND MRS. DAVID D. FOOTE

MINNIE WYRICK

MR. AND MRS. LLOYD LAW

RUDROFF HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT E. JONES

MR. AND MRS. DUANE E. HYLTON

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD QUINN

MISSOURI BETA BETA CHAPTER - ADK

BRUCE YOUNG OVERLAND PARK, KANS.

BELTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

MR. AND MRS. KENT STRODTMAN AND FAMILY

REV. AND MRS. RICHARD PERSON AND FAMILY

BOB AND CHARLENE TUNNELL

WILFRED BRIDGEORTH

HARRY AND ETHEL JACOBY

MR. AND MRS. J. W. MC KINLEY

DOROTHY AND BARKER LANE AND SANDY

MARY AND BILL LAFFOON AND BRENDA

GARY AND RUTH GARRAHAN

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD B. THOMSON III
BRADLEY AND MICHELLE

PAUL PANEK

LAURA MEINERSHAGEN

GEORGE H. AND GENEVA ADAMS DIANA-WESLEY-KATHLEEN

MR. AND MRS. J. T. DEAN

MR. AND MRS. JESS K. CATLIN

MR. AND MRS. CARL D. GUM

KATHLEEN YOUNG BARNES

MR. AND MRS. OWEN STIDHAM

LEONA ALDERSON RUSSELL KANSAS CITY, MO.

S AND S SKELLY SERVICE BOB AND LAURA SEVY

BELTON SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Carl Ryden Shoe Shop at 411 Main. now the Little Shirt Co.

Boots and Shoes

Belton's first shoe shop was opened in 1885 by John Hyer. In 1889, Hyer bought a lot from W. M. Colbern and erected one of the first brick business buildings.

Two other early shoe men were Brinnon and Flesher, The exact date these men started in business is unknown, Carl G. Ryden bought this shoe business on August 2, 1910. Ryden, who had migrated from Sweden, learned his trade there. He hand-made shoes for a number of years and was a master repairman. He had come to the United States in 1892, became a United States citizen in 1898 and married Nella M. Anderson in October, 1903. The Ryden's had seven children, four of whom are still living. The oldest, Dr. George H. Ryden, Weatherford, Okla., has recently retired from Weatherford State Teachers College. The second, Carl E. Ryden, was an engineer with the Federal Aviation Agency when he died in 1955. He was assistant engineer for the construction of the airport now known as Richards-Gebaur AFB. The third son, Dr. Laurence L. Ryden, was a research chemist with Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich. He is credited with the development of rubber-based paint, the first product sold commercially being "Glidden Spred," Dr. Ryden's trials and tribulations in doing research with latex, the base product used in the paint were written up in the December, 1958 Reader's Digest. He had joined the research staff of Dow Chemical Co. in 1937 when he was 29, and not long out of the University of Illinois. For eight years, he studied latex, a sticky, usually white fluid, found in many

places in nature, commonly in dandelions and milkweed. He had determined it was a possibility as an ingredient for paint. He was still working on it unsuccessfully in 1949, when he was stricken with polio. A few months later, flat on his back in an iron lung, he was dictating experiments for his staff to try in the lab. After ruling out one unsuccessful approach after another, he finally hit on the answer. He added a chemical stabilizer to his paint which corrected the problems he had encountered and also left him with an odorless paint.

Dr. Ryden never saw the full ramifications of his rubberbased paint. He died in 1954 from an infection resulting from his bout with polio.

The fourth Ryden son, Harold, died when he was six years old. The fifth child, Evelyn Ryden Thomas now lives in Eureka, Calif. where she and her husband are teachers in the public schools. The sixth child, Dorothy Ryden Elkins, lives in Raytown, Mo. where she is assistant vice-president at Raytown Federal Savings and Loan Assn. The seventh Ryden, Donald, has recently retired from the United States Air Force with the rank of Colonel.

In April, 1972, some sixty-two years after his father began business in Belton, Don Ryden returned to Belton and opened the Don Ryden Realty Co. a few short blocks from where his father was originally located. Carl Ryden served his customers for thirty years before his death in 1940, He is pictured above with his sons George and Carl in 1910.

Belton's other shoe shop, owned by J. C. Hyer, was located at 416 Main, now the office of Dr. Ben Z. Abella. Jim Lewis is the driver of the wagon.



Richards - Gebaur Air Force Base



Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base is located between Belton and Grandview, 17 miles south of Kansas City.

In 1941 a group of farms was acquired by Kansas City for use as an auxiliary airport. The acquisition of land continued until 1952.

Today Richards-Gebaur comprises some 2,300 acres. During World War II, President Harry S. Truman utilized what was then called Grandview Airport, to visit his family during trips away from the White House. During the "Kaw River flood" of 1951, Grandview Airport was used by commercial airlines unable to operate from the Kansas City Municipal Airport.

The Air Defense Command leased the airport from Kansas City for use in air defense operations in 1952. Kansas City voters approved a charter amendment which authorized the city government to a convey Grandview Airport to the United States Government in 1952.

In January, 1953, the Air Force accepted responsibility for all land, existing buildings and other facilities. Air Force personnel and material were moved to the base in February and March, 1954.

On June 24, 1955, Kansas City formally conveyed the property deed and title to the United States Government and on Nov. 4, of that year, Headquarters USAF in Washington, issued General Order No. 91, Section V, proclaiming Grandview Air Force Base a permanent United States Air Force installation. Ceremonies designating Grandview Air Force Base as Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base were held on April 27, 1957.

The base was named for Lt. John F. Richards, left above, and Lt. Col. Arthur W. Gebaur, Jr., two Kansas City fliers who died in military combat.

Lt. Richards died September 26, 1918, the first pilot from the Kansas City area killed in combat in France in World War I and Colonel Gebaur was killed in action over North Korea August 29, in 1952.

The dual name of Richards-Gebaur was selected because the careers of these two officers link the history of the Air Force from its infancy in World War I to the modern age of jet warfare.



Each was born and reared in Greater Kansas City of which Grandview is part, Lieutenant Richards held the Silver Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and the Purple Heart, He was shot down while engaging a superior force of enemy aircraft in the vicinity of Verrones, France.

Colonel Gebaur held the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart. He completed 99 combat missions for a total of 188 combat hours prior to his death while on a combat mission over North Korea.

The Air Force Communications Service (AFCS) assumed command of Richards-Gebaur AFB on July 1, 1970, moving its headquarters here from Scott AFB, Ill., where it had been located since 1958. The change in locations was necessitated by the merger of AFCS and the Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency (GEEIA), with the resulting need for more headquarters space.



Mayor J. Wayne Willey welcomes Col. Aubrey Gaskins, base commander, to Belton in July 1970



For Belton the 1940's were years of not only the "Great War", but of the progress the community made following these

trying years.

The Belton Chamber of Commerce was a leader in sponsoring improvement in the community. The first project undertaken was the house to house mail delivery. The project involved the installation of street signs and encouraging citizens to place street numbers on their homes. All of this was completed in a very short time due to much hard work by many people. The next project in 1946 was to secure a Memorial Park for Belton which was completed during that year. The Chamber continued the frive for improvements and the major accomplishment was the installation of lights on the athletic field in 1948. Other organizations have continued the work through the years and it

has become a showplace in Belton. During the 40's the chamber was also a great booster of Christmas decorations and most insistent that all businesses should decorate. The organization supported many other projects during those years.

The Belton American Legion Post was reorganized in the middle 40's and their main projects was the promotion of baseball and basketball for all ages. The town teams of both sports became the strongest of all teams in this area and many capacity crowds attended these games. The annual Christmas tournament field at the high school gym was the big sporting event of the year. Belton always made a creditable showing in this event. The example set by the post has been continued by sports minded people through the years who have seen the need for a strong youth program.



1940

In 1940 the main problem facing our city council was the shortage of water. Only one well supplied the town and water was being hauled from Outer Belt. The situation wasn't helped when the mercury dipped to a low of 20 degrees below zero. Ice and snow covered the ground.

W. R. Meador purchased John L. Sams interest in the Sams and Meador Drug Store. Sams had been in business for 35 years in Belton.

Leroy Dodson, a naval cadet at Pensacola, Fla., in a letter to the Star-Herald in describing his solo hop encountered fog and had many worried minutes before getting back to base. Dobson was one of the first to become a member of the Armed Forces from Belton.

The school bond vote for \$8,000 carried and tearing down of the old building just west of the high school resumed. The rebuilding of a new science and art building was expected to be completed by September.



Soon after completion of the new science and art building, now a part of the Walnut St. building.

Belton High School placed first in the Suburban Speech Contest against six other schools in this area. David Lasley, Mary Louise Jones and Chester Meador placed high in the individual honors, Belton also won the commercial contest. Taking part were Ralph Conner, Sara Meador, Ben Herr, David Lasley, Chester Meador, Fred Campbell, Virginia Nethaway, Enid Olson and Nancy Campbell.

Additional honors were won by the Belton commercial team at Columbia by building up 77 points and coming home with the state championship. Augusta Mae Fitch and the first four named

above came home with Gold Cup Honors.

The Belton business men formed the Belton Boosters Club a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, Russell Turk was elected club president.

The Belton City Council received word that a WPA grant had been approved in Washington to install a new water line from Outer Belt road to the city mains. A fifty per cent grant was to be received for the \$36,000 project.

In a school benefit basketball game Jack Dryden Sr, hit 20 points to lead the "Fats" over the "Leans" 38 to 18.



The final note of the year was on December 21. The new water line was completed and Mayor Bradford turned the valve on filling the water tower once again.

1941

In the general city election A. Ives Reid was elected Mayor of Belton. Dr. H. L. Bussong and J. K. Lacy were elected aldermen. G. G. Steinbrueck and Russell Turk were elected to the school board.

James W. Mosby, a longtime resident of the High Blue community died in March. Mosby had served as a school board member for 40 years, 30 of them in the High Blue School.

Those receiving number I ratings in the Suburban Music Festival included Alice Elkins, soprano solo; Betty Crow, alto; Ralph Conner, barifone; Francis Steinbrucck, cornet solo; Mary Jane Mullen, violin solo.

J. L. Thompson was elected president of the Belton Booster Club succeeding Richard George.

Dick Gochnauer was the highest ranking of the 156 FFA students who received State Farmers Awards. He planned to enter in the American Farmers Degree contest.

The first 300 game to be bowled at the Belton alleys was rolled by Boone Kinnison.

Phil Evans, KMBC farm service director was the principal speaker at the Future Farmers Banquet. The chapter accepted Evans, Frank Blair, Jr., Alfred Gochnauer, J. W. Robie and Maurice Roble into the organization as honorary members for their support and interest in FFA.

Robie Brothers Feed Co. started work on a new elevator that was badly needed by the community.

Cliff Parks, Jake Thompson and Temple Forrest were taking a active part in reviving a baseball team for Belton. The diamond was to be built east of town.

Results from the Cass County Tennis Tournament had Bill Idol and Francis Steinbrucck winning the Boys Doubles and in the Girls Doubles the winners were Ruby Limpus and Mary Lucille Wales.

Kansas City was making final plans to secure the ground just west and north of Belton for a super airport. Price of the land would run \$165 to \$180 per acre. The Pickering farm was being considered but city officials felt that it was too far from Kansas City.

Belton schools served hot lunches for the first time under the WPA program. The cost of the well balanced meal was ten cents.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor had the same effect here in the Belton area as the nation. Word was received by Mr, and Mrs. W. F. Turner that their daughter Jane had arrived safely in Hawaii and that she and her flance, Ensign Leroy Dodson were married on the 14th of December. Both came through the bombing untouched. Gilmore Bradford, a civilian stationed in Hong Kong, cabled he was safe, and Jack Cox was a seaman serving on the USS Oklahma, reported sunk at Pearl Harbor, No report had been received from him.

The First Red Cross War Fund was held in January. The

goal was \$250, a total of \$286.25 was raised.

In Harrisonville a organization of Legionnaires met to set up an alreraft warning service for Cass County. Belton also went under war time basic and moved the clocks ahead one hour. All merchants said they would abide by the new time schedule except one merchant who claimed he was not going to fall in line. No report was given on what merchant it was, but it is very doubtful if he held out for three and one-half years.

Pauline Bumgardner was the first Belton woman to enlist in the Armed Forces. She was a county health nurse before

entering the Navy Nurses Corps.

The tire rationing had been taken very seriously by some people. The Frank Blair, Jrs. were sporting two new bikes. No one has seen Mrs. Blair shopping on her bike, but Frank uses his to go to and from the bank, The blue and white bike cap is described as a very hot number.

The city election was very quiet with Paul Wyatt and W. F. Burkhart being elected alderman and C. J. Fleetwood and Lee Tucker winning on the school board election.

A Girl Scout Troop had finally been organized in Belton under the leadership of Mrs. Ralph Lamar. The 30 girls have been divided into four troops. Assisting Mrs. Lamar was Rosa Lee Beem, Dorothy Kratz, Jean Dryden and Mary Jane Mullen.

After many years of waiting and lots of bumps, mud, detours and what have you -the Highway Department started work on the West Belton Road (now 58 Highway), Plans were to widen and gravel the road. The new national speed law of 35 miles per hour will be set for the new road.

Bob Steinbruck in a Boy Scout ceremony at Edison Hall in Kansas City was presented the Eagle Scout medal, the highest award in the Boy Scout organization. Bob was the first Belton youth to receive this honor.

1943

O. P. A. Form No. R-306		ATES OF AMERIC	Tion Females
serial No. c60339809	SUGAR PURC	CHASE CERTIFIC	111011
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:	& Huggi	Address:	
city: Belton	County	Cass	State: Mo
is authorized to accept delivery of	haty -	ounds	(Sat) pounds of sugar
pursuant to Rationing Order No. 3 (5 by, the Office of Price Administration	Sugar Rationing Regulation	ons) of, and at a price no	t to exceed the maximum price established
Local Rationing Board No.	m	By Mon	Signature of issuing officer
County	State	-	Title
	To Be Retained	by Original Holder	

The new mayor of Belton was W. F. Burkhart. Burkhart was pro-tem of the city council and with the election of A. Ives Reid as county representative to the State Legislature he had to resign as mayor.

E. S. Willhite had converted one of his ice storage rooms into a modern locker plant. Willhite announced he would also cure and cut beef and pork. Many housewives took advantage of the "quick-freeze" system.

Frank Votava moved into the Belton area after purchasing the Home Lumber from Sterling Stewart, Frank Austin still had

an active part in the management of the yard. The Belton Booster Club elected Frank Blair to head the organization for 1943. The club voted to purchase flags to fly over the honor roll plaque at the city park.

With the shortage of help and the war work, Cliff Parks, after a number of years of operation, closed Park's Cafe.

In the city election A. F. Hundley was elected mayor of Belton. He was unopposed. Dr. H. L. Bussong and W. R. Woods were elected alderman. In the school board election Wayne

Pennington, M. E. Lomax and Dr. F. C. Denney were elected to the board.

Alice Elkins appeared on the "Amateurs for America". over radio station KKN. Miss Elkins gave a short talk on the purpose of buying War Bonds and ended the program with singing popular musical numbers. She was accompanied on the piano by Edna Olson,

The city council voted to start remodeling the offices in the city hall building. The building had recently been occupied by The Grace Garment Company, Mart Jacoby had been added as a new employee to serve as part time marshal and in the water

and street department.

The paving of runways for the new Grandview Airport had started. The first week nearly 4,000 feet of the 10,000 foot runway was completed.

Vernon Griggs, superintendent of the Belton Schools was elected president of the Central Missouri District Teacher Association in Warrensburg. Over 2,000 teachers were in attendance at the convention.

Paul Wyatt and W. F. Burkhart were re-elected aldermen and encountered opposition to a new ordinance that all oldfashion canopies on Main Street were to be removed. The safety factor seemed the main reason for the ordinance. The appearance and work that was done on Main Street later indicated the law was enforced.

John W. Wear of Calboa, Missouri took over his duties as manager of the Belton-Raymore exchange of the telephone company.

Torrential rains in April hit Belton and the local area



John Wear, right, with A. L. Mulegren, Mayor George Spear, Cliff Parks, W. M. Naylor and Kathryn Rider, chief operator, at ground breaking ceremonies in 1947 for a new telephone building.

with ten inches of rain. Considerable flooding and heavy damage was inflicted.

Cliff Parks was elected chairman of a newly formed board to organize youth baseball in Belton. Other members were J. H. Bredehoeft, Lee Tucker, Ed Miller, Orville Lawrence and Gwynne Coomes. Managers of the four local teams were Frank Mosby, L. V. Bumgardner, Coomes and Lawrence.

Cliff Parks at the Parent-Teacher meeting gave a resume of the summer baseball program activities and outlined a basketball program for the boys during the winter months. He



The class of 1944 in their junior year. First row, Vivian Steele, Irene Porter, Buddy Wood, T. D. Hendrix, Maxine Whitaker, Betty Coomes, Margaret Turner. Second row, Bud Letzig, Bill Mosby, Glen Smith, Mrs. Ramey, Bob Steinbrueck, Mike Denney, Warren Zion, Jimmy Campbell. Third row, Catharine Olson, Lorraine Sheehan, Henrietta Gray, Bob Perry, Bob Hankins, Vernon Peek, Billy Elkins and Ed Fleetwood.



The 1943 - 1944 group of FFA. Top row (1 to r) Billy Elkins, Bob Bishop, Bob Perry, Vernon Peek, Bob Hankins, Raymond Shields, Cecil Taylor, Second row, Allen Runyon, Kenneth Groh, Dean Chappell, Robert Walton, Bud Letzig, Bob Hadsell, Bottom row, Bob Thompson, Bill Barnett, Eddie Shelton, Junior Wales, Donny Paul Daulton and Bob Henderson. The teacher is Jack Kroeck,

emphasized a need for a girls program and the need for a Teen Town in Belton.

Teen Town was organized shortly afterwards and proved highly successful—games and dancing became the most popular entertainment at the club. As always dancing was frowned on by a certain group, but the editor wrote that all people might just as well accept the modern day entertainment of our young people, and that it is not like the old days.

1945

Lt. Warren Ruch serving with a advance unit in Italy was wounded but was now able to be up and around.

The City of Belton had a new fire truck, at least new to the city. A 1923 Dodge had been purchased from Mexico, Mo.

Sgt. Bob Miller, reported missing in action, was returned to his outfit – through the underground it was understood.

Temple Forrest, a Belton citizen was sworn in as Sheriff of Cass County. He was the second to be chosen from Belton — Roy Mosby served as sheriff in the early 30's.

Lt. Fred Campbell, a prisoner of war in Germany, wrote his parents and asked them to draw \$50 from his account and donate it to the Red Cross. He said Red Cross packages had been getting through regularly to the prisoners.

Frank Hundley was re-elected mayor of Belton and W. R. Woods and Frank Blair, Jr., aldermen. In the school board election Frank Mosby and Lee Tucker were elected.

The Belton High School Commercial Team placed first in their conference meet held at Grandview. Martha Jane O'Dell won first in typing, Jewel Shelton first in shorthand and Robert Miller first in bookkeeping.

Belton, as well as the nation, mourned the death on April 12th of President Franklin Roosevelt and Missouri native Harry S. Truman became the thirty-third president of the United States.

Word was received from the Adjutant General's office that Lt. W. B. Huggins was missing in action over Germany on April 7.

Word was received by the Keeneys and Campbells that Tommy Keeney and Fred Campbell had both been released from prisoner of war camps and were expected home the last of May.

The city fathers announced July 4th they had sold the city jail, so everybody would have to abide by the law since Belton didn't have a local "klink." Plans were to remodel the back section of city hall.

The war's end was the headlines of the August 16th edition of the paper. The announcement in Belton was followed by a parade of cars led by the fire truck over every street in town. Then a group of boys and girls started a parade marching around town singing Army, Navy and Marine songs and in general having a good time.

A sure sign that the war was over cane with the announcement that for the first time since the start of war, ice cream could be bought in the bulk. Artic Ice Cream Company made the announcement.

Belton had a winner in "Mike" Groh, son of Pvt. and Mrs. Waller Grob, who won the bonor of being the "Prettiest Baby" at the Pleasant Hill Fair.

The Belton Booster Club had reorganized and G. G. Steinbrueck was elected president. Goals of the club included obtaining a new post office, relocating 71 Highway, building of new homes and Christmas decorations.

The powerful girls high school basketball continued their winning ways with Frances Mosby leading the team. She scored 20 points against Grandview and 44 points against Garden City.

1946

The Belton Booster Club changed its name to the Chamber of Commerce and became a member of the national organization.

Col. Ray Sims joined Col. Roy Johnston in the field of auctioneering in Belton. He came highly recommended from the Reppert School of Auctionsering, Decatur, Indiana.

Chester Meador, mail carrier, after many years of fighting the mud, had purchased a war famous "jeep" to make his daily rounds.

The Junior High Basketball Tournament drew capacity crowds for three nights as Center Juniors copped the tourney. Cliff Parks, chairman, with assistance from Lee Tucker and Leo Quick were commended for their effort in having such a successful event.

The Belton Chamber of Commerce took the first step in getting house-to-house delivery of mail with the erecting of street signs. Plans are to erect signs at each intersection. Main Street parking came under discussion as well as the possible hiring of a night watchman.

Plan were made to re-organize a Belton American Legion Post either by reinstating the old charter or by applying for a new one.

Final plans to form a baseball league of ex-servicemen age were completed with Raymore, Pleasant Hill, Cleveland, Harrisonville, Grandview, Lee's Summit and Belton attend-

ing the meeting,
Paul Wyatt and W. F. Burkhart were re-elected aldermen
and the Missouri Public Service Company electricity franchise

was passed after numerous defeats.

Belton High School won the Mid-West commercial contest held at Grandview. Individual winners were Louise McMahon, shorthand; Martha Jane O'Dell, typing; George Elkins and J. D. Stafford, bookkeeping. The following week at the district meet

in Warrensburg the same Belton individuals won the event.

The mixed chorus of the high school under the direction of Mrs. Vernon Griggs performed at the Easter Cantata held at the Methodist Church, The soloists were Jimmy Mullen, Junior Wales, George Elkins, Nancy Thomson and Jackie Powell.

The Chamber of Commerce in their regular meeting elected Roy Whittington, president. G. G. Steinbrueck, past president had done much to rebuild the Chamber into a active and hard working organization.

The first large shipment of horses from Belton occurred when Dick Aldridge sold over 300 head of horses to be shipped to Europe. The load required 13 railroad cars.

The forming of the new American Legion Post of Belton was completed with the election of Warren Ruch as commander. Bill Powell and Gwynne Coomes were first and second vice-commanders. Thirty men attended the meeting.

The first load of 1946 wheat was received at the Robie Brothers Elevator. Herb Catron brought in the first load which tested 60 pounds. William Trollinger from Stilwell, Kans. brought in the first load of oats which tested 34 pounds.

The Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee of Jack Weeks, M. E. Lomax and Frank Votava to try to find a site for a city park large enough for baseball fields, shelter houses and picnic area. They hoped to purchase it through public donation. They reported that the job of installing street signs had been completed.

The first wrestling match in many years was held in Belton sponsored by the American Legion Post, A local man Sammy Feeback was featured in the main event.

Belton's first horseshoe tournament was held at the city hall park in September with 16 participants. The games were two out of three with Marion Vest, Leo Mosby, Paul Handley and Richard Allen Wales going down to the semi-finals. Richard



The Belton Merchants Team in 1946. Shown are back row (1 to r), Jun Steinbrueck, Bob Campbell, Jack Miller, Leo Mosby, Chick Wilson, Joe Weis, Russ Feeback, Junior Coomes and Gwynne Coomes, manager. Front row, Bolivar Laurence, Tommy Keeney, Bill Carter, Jim Reynolds, Bud Letzig, Bud Idol and Jackie Wilson, bat boy.



The Homecoming Queen contestants in 1946 were (I to r) Jane Gregg, Pat Perkins, Irma Dean Meador, Joan Quick, Marilee Kratz, Joan Savage, Helen Mosby and Dorothy McKinley.

Wales defeated Paul Handley in a very close match in the finals.

The celebration of 50 years of service by rural mail carriers was held in October. The first carriers started in Belton in November, 1902. Those that had carried in Belton were: Claude Matheny, Ed Barr, John Jones, Frank Shackelford, Claude Lofland and Ed Hitzelberger on Route One, and on Route Two, Will Lawrence, Charles Casper, J. O. Gochnauer and Chester Meador.

Newly elected officers of the Belton American Legion Post were: Bill Powell, commander; Nelson Mullen and G. C. Coomes, first and second vice-commanders; J. Weldon Jackson, financial officer; Leo Mosby, adjutant; Carl Brown, historian; E. H. Hitzelberger, chaplain and Chester Meador, service officer. The post planned to sponsor a basketball town team that winter.

The Harrisonville Memorial Hospital was dedicated in October and patients were received on the 29th. Dr. H. A. Tracy was a member of the staff.

Elected Queen of the Football Homecoming game was Joan Quick. Her attendants were Dorothy McKinley and Joan Savage. Joan was presented to the crowd by Bill Carter, captain of the team.

The Chamber of Commerce Park Committee selected a site for a city park just north of railroad tracks and at the intersection of Commercial and South East Ave. The ground was owned by A. Ives Reid and the committee believed they had arrived at a fair price for the land. The Chamber also decided to sponsor the Christmas decorations.

Final tribute was paid to E. J. Feeback, a local boy who died in December at Hines Veterans Hospital in Chicago. E. J. contacted Hodgkins disease while serving with the Armed Forces in New Guinea in 1944.



E. J. Feeback

1947

The year 1947, started off with increased burglarizing of local merchants. Dryden Drugs had suffered two losses of \$2,000 and \$4,000; Benson Lumber Co., \$500 and Mucke's Welding Shop, \$150.

Following the heavy losses due to burglary the Chamber of Commerce by public subscription placed a night watchman on duty. Leo Mosby, a former Marine, was hired as a full time patrolman.

The Chamber of Commerce took an option on a tract of land on the east side of town for a city park. Public donation was used to purchase the site. The front part will be used as picnic area and the rear part for baseball, football and other parts of a youth program. Plans also called for a park board to be set up to govern the growth of the area.

Mrs. Emma Longshore, a local rug maker, started work on

her 185th rug. Mrs. Longshore was well known for her talent and was one of the happiest and busiest woman in town.

Back in 1924 the Turner Brothers Dairy started operating in the Belton community and after 23 years they decided to quit the dairy business. Bill Turner continued to deliver milk purchased from Sunrise Dairy and F. S. "Duke" Turner continued general farming.

The park committee was authorized to place a down payment on the new park. Donations were going well and it was now a reality. The first park board was appointed by the chamber. The five-man board consisted of Jack Weeks, Bill Powell, Jim Miller, G. G. Steinbrueck and M. E. Lomax. The board had the power to handle all construction and planning of the park. Plans called for the building of a baseball field. The park was named Belton Memorial Park in honor of those that gave their



Donna Gilby drew the name of Alfred Gochnauer as winner of the new car that was raffled off to raise funds for the purchase of Memorial Park. The car was donated by Fleetwood Chevrolet.

lives in the two world wars.

The American Legion Post sponsored the Junior and Senior baseball teams during the summer, Reed Harris managed the Juniors and Leo Quick the Seniors.

For the first time in many years the city election was a spirited affair. George Spear was elected mayor, Dr. John McKee and W. D. Harrison, aldermen,

Belton High School won additional victories at Warrensburg when Helen Mosby was first in typing and George Elkins first in spelling. Miss Sarah Thomas was their instructor.

Newly elected officers of the Chamber of Commerce were Richard George, president; Jack Dryden, vice-president; R. M. Fay, treasurer and Dale Neal, secretary.

In a special city election J. W. Kennemer was elected

alderman to replace Fred Burkhart who had moved out of the ward.

The park board announced that grading had been completed and work started on the football field and the newly formed Gun Club was allotted a space in the last part of the park.

Bill Sharp a local umpire turned professional and worked in the KOM League. Bill worked his first game at Pittsburg, Kans.

The Belton Baseball Town Team opened the season against Pleasant Hill. They joined the Missouri-Kansas League with eight teams making up the league.

Improvement continued at the park with volunteer labor building picnic tables and ovens and work started on the backstop for the new baseball fields. Jack Dryden, president, requested citizens to donate roses, evergreens and trees.

Belton Legion baseball had a regular starting line of Ed Pugh, catcher; Junior Coomes, pitcher; Russell Feeback, first base; Jimmy Reynolds, second base; Bill Mosby, third base; Leo Mosby, short stop; Bill Carter, Jun Steinbrueck, and Bud Letzig, outfield. The team captured eight wins against one defeat to lead the K&M Baseball League.

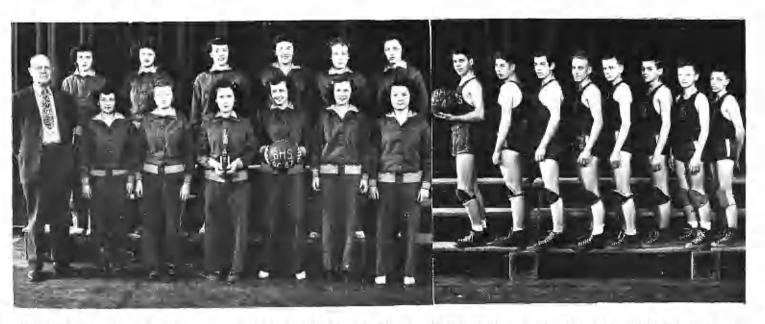
Tommy Keeney in a special election was elected new alderman to replace Dr. John McKee who had moved to Oklahoma.

The local Belton Baseball team defeated Louisburg 5-0 to win the championship of the Missouri-Kansas League with a 12-2 record. Cleveland was in second place with an 11-3 record.

Warren Dial was elected to lead the American Legion Post during 1947-48. Henry Dryer and A. W. Letzig became vice-commanders.

The park board was authorized to erect gates at the entrance to the new park which can be locked when not in use. A public auction was planned to raise money to be used on the athletic fields.

Warren Dial, commander of the Belton American Legion Post, announced that the organization planned to build or remodel a permanent home. The building was to be available for all civic groups and available for rental.



The girls basketball team and the Midget team for 1946 - 47. Shown with Coach Share are back row, Joan Quick, Charlene Hankins, Helen Mosby, Dorothy McKinley, Betty Borden, Nellie Meador, Front row, Peggy Osborn, Pat Weeks, Virginia Hendricks, Tywana McClain, Marilee Kratz and Catherine Holloway. The boys are Louis Beem, Bernie Peacock, Bobby Jack Elkins, Clyde Hadsell, Tommy Tucker, Buddy Roberts, Jack Dryden and Harold Smith.

The first tree donated to the new park was a silver maple planted near the entrance to the park. It was given by the Dorpha Club.

Winners in the Christmas Decorations sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce were: Home Decoration — Wayne Osborn, first; Dick George, second. In the business houses, Belton Dry Goods first and Belton Beauty and Barber Shop, second.

What was described as a high tornado struck Belton with winds reaching 80 miles an hour. The twister did not touch the ground and damage was minor. It struck on New Years Day.

The first of Belton's war dead, Pfc. Jerry Webber, was returned for reburial at the National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

The Belton Star-Herald came out in favor of forming athletic conferences for the high school. The larger schools such as Lee's Summit, Ruskin, Raytown, Blue Springs, Center, Pleasant Hill and Harrisonville would be in one group. The smaller schools such as Belton, Grandview, Greenwood, Lone Jack, Oak Grove and Grain Valley would form the second group.

In the city election Paul Wyatt and Fred Phillips were elected aldermen and Jack Weeks and Leo Quick were elected to the school board.

At the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce executive



At left, the class of 1948. Back row, Bill Denney, Bob Hendrickson, Harry Spear, Dean Chappell, Clifford Wall, Bill Borden and Richard Hankins. Front row, Dorothy

board and the park board, definite plans were made to light the athletic field at the park. Plans called for the erection of light steel towers with a total of 60 lights. Loan bonds would be sold to the public and money received from renting the field would pay off the loans. The towers arrived the early part of May and by early July had been set for the opening night game in Memorial Park.

The dedication of the lights for the Belton Memorial Park athletic field was held June 18. Jack Weeks, who sacrificed many days to complete the project announced that everything would be ready for the game between Grandview and the local team.

Whit Mustion, local sharpshooter won the Missouri Trapshooting single championship at Elliott's Park. Whit missed the first target and then clipped 199 pigeons in a row.

Over 1,000 persons were in attendance for the opening ceremonies of the first lighted baseball field in this area. Frank Blair, Jr. acted as Master of Ceremonies and at eight o'clock Mayor George Spear signaled L. V. Bumgardner to turn the switch. Blair then introduced Lyman Bishop, president of the Chamber of Commerce who reviewed the magnificant job that the chamber had done in raising \$12,000, buying the ground, grading the football and baseball field, lights and the picnic area that was being built.

After 30 years of active veterinary practice in and around Belton, Dr. H. L. Bussong retired for health reasons. Dr. E. L. Montgomery recently released from the Army, set up practice here.



Wise (sponsor), Helen Wilson, Mary L. Diamond, Helen Mosby, Jane Gregg and Norma J. Lawrence. At right, a candid shot taken at the Junior-Senior banquet in 1947.

1949

The Chamber of Commerce held a benefit basketball game for the Belton High School Banduniform fund drive. Leo Quick's "Has Beens" pushed through to a 29-21 win over Cliff Park's "Would Be's". Kenneth Handley equipped with a brace of six guns refereed the play. W. P. Miller, Tommy Keeney, John Shawhan, Frank Blair and Jack Dryden, Sr. led the victors in the scoring. Dryden, Sr. suffered a disjointed finger and a broken toe. Nelson Mullen, Bill Powell, C. J. Fleetwood, and Parks sparked the losers.

Col. Roy Johnston auctioneering a sale at the Denver Western Show hit a new high in the sale of stockers and feeders. The champion load brought \$77 per hundred, a world's record.

The Belton American Legion Post and Chamber of Commerce made a joint announcement that the lighted ballfield would only be used by the local team sponsored by the Legion Post. The playing of all outside players instead of local players was the stumbling block.

L. V. Bumgardner was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce replacing Lyman Bishop, J. A. Miller and Allen Olson were appointed to the park board.

Healy Barber Shop provided additional services during the summer with a new shoe shine boy. Don Greenwell, Jr. known as the "go getter" youngster of the community.

For the first time the Belton community was treated to a special showing of television. An antenna was erected at Fay and Son Hardware for the viewing. Over 700 people attended with each lady receiving a rose.

In the city election George Spear was elected mayor and

W. F. Burkhart and William Harrison, aldermen.

Senator James Kim announced Belton was among a number of Missouri towns under consideration for a new federal post-office. He said Belton would be assigned a priority number.

It was announced by E. E. Simpson, school superintendent that the agriculture department would be dropped. The number of students interested in the course did not meet the requirement for state aid. A course in Industrial Arts was to be added to replace it.

The Belton American Legion Baseball continued its winning ways, with seven victories against only one loss.

The American Legion Post elected Lyman Bishop, commander; Bill Tye, Sr., vice-commander and Charles Henderson, junior vice-commander, Bishop will replace "June" Holloway.

The opening of the Belton Fair was scheduled for August 4, 5 and 6. Highlights were a ballgame between Belton and Grandview, the Rodeo Kids and a horse pulling contest.

The VFW Post installed new water fountains at Belton Memorial Park. Much work had been done at the park with many activities being staged in the area.

Cliff Parks was Master of Ceremonies at the Cub Scouts Field Day at Harrisonville. Harry Carter and Paul Wyatt served on the game committee. Belton Cubs that brought home first place awards were: 50 yard dash, Donnie Ketteman, Wolf Rand and Terry Reynolds, Bear Rank; three-legged race (father and son) Gilbert and Donnie Ketteman; baseball throw (mothers) Mrs. Gilbert Ketteman; baseball throw, Bear Rank, Lyman Bishop and championship baseball throw, Bob Carter.

Frank Daulton took over the position of city marshal with the resignation of Kinney Faeback. The city council decided to make it a full time position.

A television program debut was held in October in Belton with a film of Admiral Byrn's 1931 visit to the South Pole. It was noted there had been much jockeying for front row seats up town at the hardware stores.

Pete Shirk and Harold Collins rescued six persons just north of the Outer Belt on 71 Highway from the high water that swept their car off the road during's cloudburst. Shirk's car later was washed away and Collins nearly drowned but managed to make it to a tree.

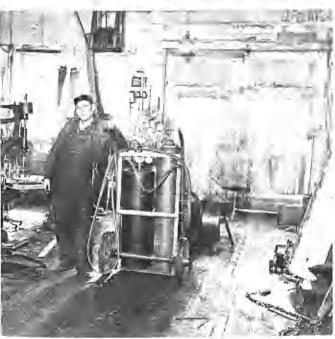
Sammy Feeback, former local wrestler, took over as: referee at matches at Memorial Hall and was featured on a Kansas City station each Thursday evening.

The American Legion Post and the local high school jointly sponsored a benefit basketball game with the donation going toward the purchase of a public address system.

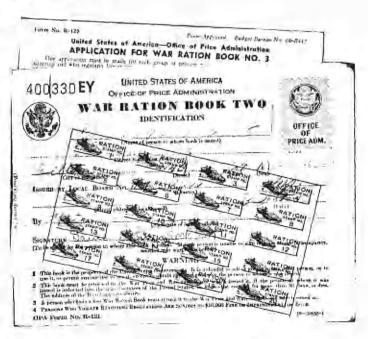
Earl Westhoff established himself as top winner of the 1949 shooting season of the Kansas City Trapshooting Association by winning the all-round championship, high average trophies, and the daily double event.



The 1949 seniors who played on the football team were front row (1 to r) Howard Miller, Bill Barker, Bernie Peacock, Clyde Hadsell and Tom Tucker. Back row, Corky Grigsby, Dick Yates, Walter Bishop and Jack Dryden.



Henry Mucke started his welding and blacksmith shop in 1946 in a building opposite city hall, the present site of the Belton Animal Hospital. His retirement in 1969 brought an end to an era of blacksmithing in Belton.



RATION BOOKS LIKE THESE WERE A PART OF EVERY-ONE'S LIVES DURING THE WAR YEARS OF THE FORTIES.



Dick Quick and His Goat

By Dodie Maurer

The year was 1945... a man from Independence had succeeded to the presidency, the war in Europe was over, within a few weeks the atomic bomb would be dropped on Hiroshima ending the war in Japan and opening a new era. In Belton a 10-year-old boy hitched a goat to a wagon to deliver ice and captured the imagination of a nation just learning to smile again.

The late Jack Reynolds, who operated the school busses in Belton for years, used to deliver ice to a pre-refrigeration era Belton. In the spring of 1945, no doubt seeing the handwriting on the wall as far as the ice business went, gave up his route. But there were still homes, and drug and grocery stores that used ice.

Richard Quick, still a Belton resident and now living at 200 Cambridge Rd., came to the rescue.

He lived about nine blocks from the ice house at that time and was asked occasionally by a neighbor to deliver several pounds of ice in his wagon. The tips were pretty good and two weeks before school was out he decided to start a regular route. Before long, the trips back and forth to the ice house were beginning to tell on Dick's legs, so he talked his father into buying him a goat (named William) to pull the wagon.

Enter now Sam Feeback, just recently discharged from the Army, with a photography studio at 1500 No. Scott and the late George Spear, editor of The Star-Herald. Sam took a picture and Spear sent the story to the Kansas City Times and Dick and his goat and his ice wagon were the subject of a front page story. The picture was sent out on the AP (Associated Press) wires and papers in New York, Louisville, Ky., Lansing, Mich., Charleston, S. C., Oklahoma, Milwaukee, Wisc., ranthe story and the picture and Dick became a celebrity. He was the subject of an article in YANK, the Army weekly in its Pan-American and Pacific editions; and the picture ran in STARS AND STRIPES, the U.S. Armed Forces daily newspaper, in the Paris and Southern France editions. The headlines and cutlines were gems in themselves: "A Very Young Iceman Becomes an Uncontested Monopolist;" "Quick Work Doesn't Let Lack of Help Get Town's Goat"; "Goat-Powered Ice Delivery"; "One Iceman That Won't be The Subject of Jealous Remarks by Husbands!"

Then the letters started coming, some simply addressed, Master Dickie Quick, Iceman, Belton, Mo. A doctor, Phil H. Quick of Olivet, Mich., inquired whether Dick made deliveries outside Missouri and if reduced rates were given to people with the same name. "If you should make a trip up here and liked the country and decided to stay for a while I can furnish you and William quite a little work. I have a big yard to mow and quite a big garden to cultivate."

Dale Carnegie, A Beltonite and author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People," whose theory seemed to work everywhere but in his own hometown, wrote "You got a three column headline in the Herald Tribune of New York City. You are probably one of the few Missourians ever able to do that. My congratulations. My father and mother lived in Belton for 30 years, so I am particularly proud of you and your accomplishments. I am also proud of a Grandview boy who is in the White House now. Cordially, Dale Carnegie."

Noting that the story mentioned that Dick's profits were eaten up pretty quick with milk shakes for him and extra feed for the goat, one woman sent him a dollar for some milk shakes because she liked them too.

Letters also came from a man named Dickie Quick in Fair Play, Mo.; from the president of the Western Light and Telephone Co.; from the executive vice-president of Junior Achievement, Inc. and from Belton servicemen, Jesse Grisham, Verne Herrick, Jun Steinbrueck, Milton Twente, Clyde Alexander and others serving in Europe.

Perhaps the classic notation was written by the man who sent Dick the clipping from the Louisville, Ky. paper who noted above the picture, "Not bad, President and Goat!"

Sam Feeback, the young photographer who took the picture and who now lives in Kansas City, went on to become a top-notch news photographer with assignments ranging as far as Vietnam. But the picture of Dick Quick and William, his goat, was the first of his to grab world-wide attention.

Public Utilities

Telephones

Southwestern Bell has not always been the "only phone company in town." Since the first installation 70 years ago, Belton's telephones have been under ownership of three successive companies.

A copy of The Star-Herald, dated Jan. 7, 1915, recorded the following account of how Belton happened to have telephones: "During the severe drouth of 1901 one of our old residents visited his home town in an eastern state, and in conversation with a friend was asked if Belton had a telephone exchange. Upon being told that we did not possess such a luxury he remarked that we must live in the 'jungles.'

The following winter two strange men came to our little village. We wondered what could be their mission. We had not long to wait until we were informed they were representatives of the Austin-Inland Telephone Co. . . . " (located in Austin, Missouri, four miles east of Archie). "They were given a cordial welcome and were given encouragement enough to justify them in buying lots and erecting on them the creditable building which they still own and operate in.

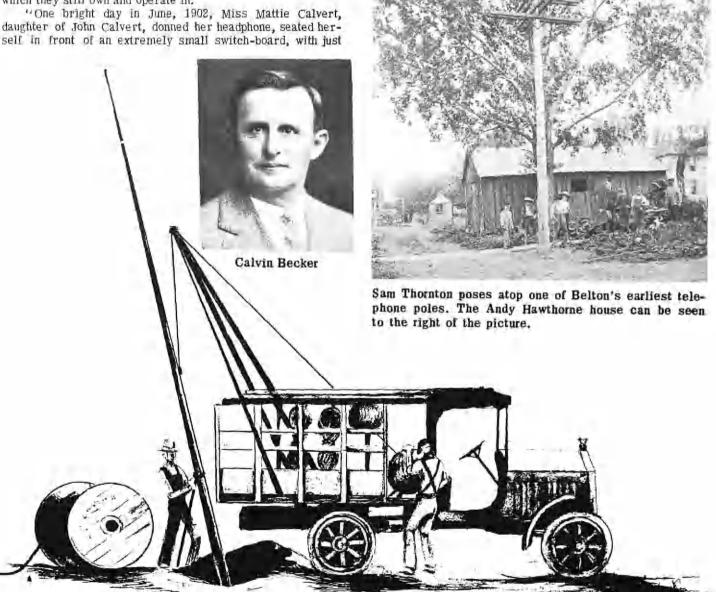
17 drops in operation. Thus the Austin-Inland Telephone Co. made its bow to the people of Belton and surrounding country.

Mr. S. P. Byler of Garden City, was manager until August. 1905, when he was succeeded by Bert Homan."

The first president was J. O. App, of Archie.

Members of the company often cut their own telephone poles in the beginning, according to a few of those early customers.

The first telephone was installed in Belton in 1902 in the home (at 207 Second Street) of Andy Hawthorne, a dry goods and grocery merchant. Sam Thornton (born 1882) helped to install the first phone.



- 109 -

The telephone office was in the Byler home at 210 Second Street where the Todd Noland house, now the Arnold F. Thomsen home, is located. Some of the earliest telephone operators were Mary Hundley, Georgia Thomson, Rose Coomes, Aurelia Harris, and Florence Smith. Mrs. Hundley, still a resident of Belton remembers the night operator slept on a cot and all but an emergency line closed down at 10 p.m.

The 1915 news account notes "A new Kellogg, 350 drop switch-board has recently been installed, with 630 telephones now in active use on the Belton and Raymore exchanges, employing seven operators, one lineman and manager. Mr. George App of Archie, Mo., is president, Mr. Charles E. Allen of Harrisonville, secretary, with Mr. Homan manager.

Later a white frame house with switchboard and equipment upstairs was built on lots next to the alley on Walnut, back of the Bank of Belton.

Bill Davidson remembers that he and Bryan Jones dug the drains for the building.

Bert Homan was manager until August, 1916, when Calvin Becker (son-in-law of J. O. App) moved from Archie to become manager. He became general manager in 1925 and later

Mrs. Carl Henderson, daughter of Becker, recalls, "One interesting story is that Belton was without service for a brief time. The young son of Becker, then living in the 'telephone house," became the victim of smallpox. Of course, the family was quarantined, and the telephone operators upstairs had to leave. This left Belton in quite a predicament until wooden stairs were built outside the house to an upstairs window in the office. After that, the operators went in and out of the window, and telephone service was resumed. This was the situation for several weeks until the quarantine was lifted,"

Other early-day managers included Cliff Blocker, Paul

Limpus, Whit Mustin, and John Wear.

The company was sold in 1933 to the Western Light and Telephone Company with headquarters at Clarence, Missouri.

The next 20 years found Belton's phone company attempting to keep abreast of innovations in service as they appeared.

One such innovation, called the "new common battery system," involved Belton directly. Early on April 29, 1949, Mayor George E. Spear received the following telegram: "Telephone number 1108M Chula Visia will be waiting for your telephone call thanks for the honor your honor - Edith." The message referred to an important phone call to be made that day. On May 5 of the next week, the Star-Herald carried a news item that explains the message: "The long-awaited new telephone system for Belton became a reality last Friday morning at 10 o'clock as Mayor George E. Spear placed the first call to go through the new switch board. At the other end of the line in Chula Vista, California, were Mrs. John (Edith) Russ, the mayor's niece, and Drs. R. M. and Gertrude McKee, of Belton, who are visiting in their daughter's home, making the inauguration a truly all-Belton affair,"

Increasing numbers of patrons had outgrown the "telephone house." Therefore, on land adjacent to it on the south a \$30,000 brick building had just been completed to house the new



The telephone building completed in 1949.

"Two years of planning and working and \$75,000 have gone into this enterprise as the Western Light and Telephone Co. has endeavored to keep step with the growth and progress of the Belton community," the article continues. "For a long time the old system was inadequate to care for the needs of the town. The war with its scarcities held up any construction program. But with the return of materials, the new setup was begun, and with the future to view, the new system has been designed to serve normal city expansion for quite some time

Mrs. Henderson recalls, "All went smoothly until Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base was opened. More extensive service was required, and Western Light and Telephone was unable to finance the increase in installations - thus it became part of the Southwestern Bell Telephone system in an exchange of territory."

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company came to Bellon, Missouri in 1953. They obtained the franchise from Western Light and Telephone Company and relified ten of their om-



Telephone company employees about 1935 included (1 to r) Virginia Bullock Ray, Pauline Kearney Houston, Katherine Rider and Paul Limpus.

ployees and hired Mrs. Doris Elkins as Service Representative to work in the business office.

The old office, located in a small brick building at the corner of second and Walnut, housed a small manual switchboard which was able to handle the volume of calls from the 500 telephone stations then in Belton. All of these were of the old magneto type and most were the old wall type crank telephone, Private and semi-private lines were non-existent as most customers were on 16 party lines. In fact, one telephone line that extended out to Jaudon had 25 people on the party line. When any one of these customers was called, the code ring was heard by each of the other 24 people. To place a call, one lifted the receiver off the hook, cranked the phone rapidly and hoped for the best.

Telephone progress for Southwestern Rell, was fast and far reaching. In 1956, the entire Belton exchange was changed to a dial office, whereby one could dial their own calls. The newly installed equipment allowed the customer to dial his own local calls and also long distance calls. This direct dialing system was the first one west of the Mississippi.

A building addition was required in 1963 and the business office was temporarily moved to 417 Main. For this central office addition, additional land was purchased. On this new land was the oldest and tallest pine tree in the territory and there was quite a controversy about cutting it down.

The new building, which remains today, was added to the



Rules and Regulations

Call by number only, or you may not get attention as operators have no time to book up numbers for you.

When through talking, ring off.

When any line gives poor service, it amoys us as well as you; if it should become had, don't make the mistake of supposing that the Telephone Company will be annoyed by a complaint. "Trouble" occurs constantly in all telephone systems. The management can only remedy it when they know it. Let us have your first complaint.

Do not allow children or disinterested parties to use or tamper with your telephone.

Do not use your telephone during an electrical storm. Obscene or profane language must not be used under any circumstances.

Phones are for use of subscribers only. All others cash.

No attachments will be allowed to any of our instituments or any lines connecting with us.

Conversation limited to five minutes.

We rent service, not instruments. All damages to instruments for subscriber's use must be paid by subscriber.

Report all trouble to Gentral Office, and if not corrected within three days, notify the General Manager.

Our first efforts are for fair treatment and prompt service to our subscribers.

Operators are instructed to treat subscribers with respect and courtesy, and telephone users are required to be equally as courteous and respectful to them.

We want your business, but we can't give you service for nothing, as we have no other business with which to make the money necessary to pay operators. Ilnemented, keep up the depreciation and maintenance and pay other bills incident to the proper handling of the telephone business, which, as such, is entitled to the same consideration as merchandising, banking or other vocation of life

Rent on telephone is due the 15th of each month. We reserve the right to discontinue your service if rental is not paid by the last of the month.

The Austin Inland Telephone Company assumes no liability whatever from damage for errors or omissions in making this directory.

The cover and first page (actual size) of one of Belton's earliest telephone directories. It contained 48 pages. of advertisements and telephone listings.

rear and north of the existing one. The original "telephone house," then a private residence, was torn down to make room.

Push button dialing came to Belton in 1968, one of the earliest exchanges in the Kansas City area to be converted. Another first for Belton was the introduction in November, 1971 of direct dial of credit cards, and collect telephone calls.

Mrs. Doris Elkins, William Higgins and Neil Singleton who were with the telephone company in 1953 are still serving Belton customers at 612 Walnut and almost 40 telephone people to serve area residents are employed by the Belton office.

Telephone service for Beltonites has come a long way from the days when customers went out and cut their own telephone poles.

Electricity

The history of Missouri Public Service Company in the City of Belton travels back to the year of 1917, for it was that year that L. K. Green, founder of MPS, purchased the electric power facility in Belton.

Electric power was not new to Belton though, for the first electric lights to be illuminated in Belton was about 1910 by the Belton Electric Power Company. The first power facilities were built by John F. Newman and Burt Homan, both from Belton.

The Belton power plant consisted of a Northern Generator

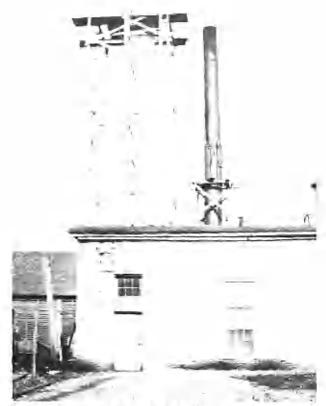
powered by a Monarch Corliss steam engine and a Kewanee Boiler.

The Belton Electric Power Company operated for approximately two years and then in May, 1912, John F. Newman sold his one-half interest in the Belton electric power business to David L. Harker. For the next two years the facilities were operated by Homan and Harker. Burt Homan and his wife sold their one-half interest to Harker in 1914 making him the sole owner of the power plant and electric distributions system.

Missouri Public Service Company, founded by the Green family at Pleasant Hill, Missouri in 1917, purchased the Belton Electric Power Plant and Distribution System from David L. Harker that same year for the sum of \$14,215.55. When the company purchased the Belton system there were less than 100 customers connected to the distribution system. For the next four years, from 1917 to 1921, the Belton system was operated as an independent power system providing Belton and Raymore, Missouri, with electric power. In 1921 a new 22,000volt line was built from the then new MPS Pleasant Hill electric generating plant to Belton. This was a part of the electric transmission system connecting the Pleasant Hill and Clinton steam power plants and some 56 towns lying south and east of Kansas City and enabling the small Belton plant to be shut down. The MPS Belton office was located in the old power plant building for many years until it was moved to its present location in 1952. Subsequently, the power plant building was sold and demolished to make way for new urban grown in downtown

With the community growth occurring during the World War II years in the suburban communities of Jackson and Cass Counties, the transmission lines serving these areas were increased from 22,000 to 34,000 volts shortly after the war. With the additional growth in the Belton community caused by the development of Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base in the early 1950's, the MPS electric distribution system serving the Belton community was expanded at a fairly rapid rate. By 1965 a new 69,000-volt transmission line was added to serve the Belton Community more than doubling the electric power capacity for the area. By 1967 this transmission had been extended on to Freeman and Harrisonville creating an additional loopfeed and increasing the reliability of power service to MPS customers.

Today MPS serves 3,087 consumers within the corporate limits of Belton compared to the fewer than 100 existing in 1917. The electric transmission system serving Belton and other metropolitan area communities is an integral part of the "Highways of Power" designed to serve the rapidly growing metropolitan Kansas City area throughout the decade of the 70s. The major source of power for the area is generated at the 500,000 kilowatt MPS generating station on the Missouri River at Sibley, Missouri, and continuity of the system is insured by interconnections of other power companies through the 345,000-volt tie line to the Mokan pool in the states of



Scaffolding surrounds the brick chimney which replaced the one shown on the Missouri Public Service Company electric power plant which was located across from city hall. A later picture appears on page 26. This one was taken probably around 1920.

Missouri and Kansas and neighboring power companies to the east. The new Sibley Generating Station is 1,000 times larger than the original 500KW generator installed at the MPS plant at Pleasant Hill which began supplying power to Belton over the transmission line built in 1921. The original 500KW generator is on the front lawn of the MPS General Office Building in Raytown, Missouri

Gas Service

Gas service in Belton dates back to 1902, when the Scott and March Land and Cattle Company leased to Revenue Mining Co., land in Sec. 14, Twp. 46, Range 33, for the purpose of drilling wells to find natural gas. The original lease was dated March 21, 1902 for 15 years for the consideration of \$1, according to land office records. The first pipeline extended from the farm, along Mill Street to the corner of West Avenue (now Scott Ave.) and turned north to the railroad track. According to Mrs. Grace Van Brunt of Kansas City, grand-daughter of George W. Scott, all the homes along this pipeline were lighted and heated with natural gas. The Hixon house (now the Sams home, 110 Mill St.) caught fire one night and the second floor burned. Not knowing how to control the gas, it soon gave out, but the homes along the line were known as being on "Quality Hill."

Other companies leased land about this time for the purpose of drilling for gas. D. W. Colbern, W. S. Pryor, D. A. Simmons and George Holburt, Anna Harrelson and Will and Hattie Burt were among those who leased land to the Belton Oil and Mining Co., and the Revenue Mining Co. All of these transactions were in 1902 and 1903.

It appears as though there was no effective means found



Belton employees of Central States Gas Utilities Company included (1 to r) Lloyd Pugh, Jim Laswell and G. C. Coomes, Sr.

to control the gas and to service homes effectively until 1928 when Shippey, Maddin and Parrish Co. had service in Belton. Ben Longshore, now with Panhandle Eastern, worked for this

company and mentioned the undesirability of installing gas lines under houses among the broken glass. There were few basements at that time. In January, 1928, the school board entered into a contract with Maddin and Shippey Gas Company for the supply of artificial or natural gas to furnish heating of the school buildings.

In late 1929 or early 1930, the gas company name was changed to Central States Gas Utilies Co., and in December, 1930, a bill of \$230,80 was paid to this company by the

school board, apparently a semi-annual bill.

The company became the Central Distributing Company in January, 1935. Central Distributing was owned by Panhandle Eastern and the offices which had been at 411 Main, were moved to Raytown in 1941. When the move was made, the company was sold to Wallace Gilroy of Greenwich, Conn. The offices were moved to Lee's Summit, May 1, 1943 and the name was changed to the Interstate Gas Company. Gilroy remained the owner of the company until the Gas Service Company bought the Interstate Company in October, 1947.

At that time, Belton was one of 20 other Missouri communities and 16 in Kansas which were included in the purchase from the Interstate Company.

When Gas Service Company began serving the city there were 350 customers. By December, 1971, 3,351 customers were being supplied with natural gas.

Natural gas is distributed to Belton through the Lee's



Sam Feeback (left) and Tom Gilby help dig gas lines in the area in May 1940.

Summit division of the Gas Service Co. William Lavery is division manager.

Gas Service Company, whose general offices are located in Kansas City, Mo., serves approximately 740,000 customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Belton Cemetery



The Carnegie family gravesite at Belton Cemetery.

In the southwest part of the City of Belton lies a 21-acre area which is used by the Cemetery Association as a burial grounds. This area is within the city limits and idea?ly located.

W. H. and Jerushu Colbern on June 14, 1875 sold three acres of ground to the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery for \$300. An additional three acres was sold to the Belton Cemetery Assn. on April 1, 1891. The location was the same but the association name had evidently been changed sometime within the 16 year span between sales.

Monuments and stones in parts of the cemetery show names and dates of death of many of Belton's early pioneers. Some of the stones date back to the 1870's. Among those buried there are George W. Scott, founder of Belton; George D. Hope, a successful lumberman; J. V. Robinson, Belton's first businessman; the Blair brothers who were breeders of Shorthorn and Hereford cattle; J. N. and B. F. Hargis, father and son bankers, the first in Belton; W. M. March, a junior member of the Scott and March firm of grain dealers; T. T. Garnett, Belton's first doctor and druggist; and James W. Harrelson a prominent farmer and stock

raiser.

Later, Carry Nation, the prohibitionist, and Dale Carnegie, author, were buried there.

The cemetery is operated, managed and maintained by a Board of Directors who hire help for the necessary work of mowing, filling of graves and pruning and trimming of shrubbery.

The present board is headed by Wallace Blair, president; D. George Eblen, vice-president; Richard E. George, treasurer and Mrs. Faye Wallace, secretary, Other members of the board are: Harry Meador, Dr. John R. McKee, Robert E. Jones, J. Weldon Jackson, Miss Lena Walters, Mrs. Ernestine Powell, Mrs. Hazel O'Dell, Frank Blair, Jr., C. A. Balding, James N. Houston and Herman Tabor.

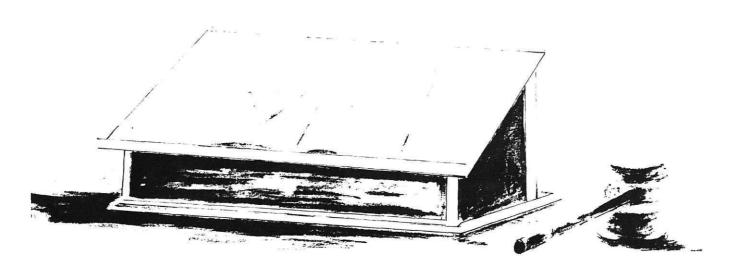
Funds for the maintenance and operation of the cemetery are derived in three ways: assessments, donations and interest from the investments of the endowments. Repairing and resurfacing the roads has been accomplished recently and a program for planting and setting out shrubbery is being initiated.

Clubs

and

Organizations

Through the years, Belton's civic, social, fraternal and church groups have been the backbone of many of the worthwhile projects and improvements that have added greatly to its overall growth and progress.



Belton Masonic Lodge

The oldest continuing organization in Belton is the Masonic Lodge. In the early part of 1872, 11 Master Masons living in and around Belton, Missouri, decided to form a lodge. The necessary steps were taken according to the rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and a petition for dispensation was presented on April 5, 1872, with the following appointed officers: George W. Scott, Worshipful Master, Boone T. Muir, Senior Warden and Samuel B. Rider, Junior Warden.

Dispensation was approved by Right Worshipful Brother C. L. Mayo, District Deputy Grand Master of the 36th Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and approved at the

Grand Lodge session on April 29, 1872.

Belton Lodge under dispensation was set to work on May 21, 1872 with the following charter members in addition to the appointed officers: William P. Crabtree, treasurer; William C. Miner, secretary; George L. Love, Senior Deagon; Clayton Bane, Junior Deagon; George W. Case, Senior Steward; Hamilton Willis, Junior Steward; Samuel D. Muir, Tyler, and Thomas Trekell.

The Grand Lodge report of Sept. 1, 1872 showed a membership of 16, having added F. B. Avery, G. W. Cooley, W. Old-

ham, R. M. Slaughter and J. M. Woods.

A charter was granted to Belton Lodge No. 450 on Oct. 16, 1872 by the Grand Lodge of Missouri at the October session in St. Louis, Mo., and was presented on Nov. 2, 1872 by Right Worshipful Brother N. W. Given District Deputy Grand Master of the 36th Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. At that time the election and installation of the following officers for 1873 was held Boone T. Muir, Worshipful Master, George L. Love, Senior Warden; Samuel B. Rider, Junior Warden; William P. Crabtree, Treasurer and Richard M. Slaughter, secretary.

As with any new organization the financial struggle continued for a number of years, trying to do charity work and to furnish the lodge. The dues for 1872 was 25 cents per

member.

On Aug. 4, 1874 the lodge laid the cornerstone for the

M. E. Church South.

The lodge room was rented from J. V. Robinson and Son until January 1879 for \$80 per year and in February 1879 the lodge moved over the bank of J. W. Hargis and Son for \$75 per year rent.

Belton Lodge attended the cornerstone laying of the Harrisonville Courthouse on Apr. 10, 1897, accompanied by the Belton Band, whose expenses they paid.

Austin-Inland Telephone Co. installed a phone in the Lodge

on Sept. 19, 1908 for \$9 per year.

Harry S. Truman was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Mar. 18, 1909, as a member of the Belton Lodge. In 1940 he became Grand Master of Missouri Marons and later the 33rd President of the United States.

On April 4, 1911 Harry S. Truman and several Master Masons were granted permission to organize Grandview Lodge at Grandview, Missouri. Belton Lodge gave them their old

jewels.

During July and August of 1912, electricity was installed in the lodge. For the duration of World War I, \$4 per meeting was donated to the Red Cross instead of having refreshments.

Candlesticks of the Belton Lodge were donated to Archie Lodge in 1917. Donations were made in 1919 to the relief funds in Europe. Carrying the coal and polishing the stove cost \$1.

A request was granted for a group of Masons to form a

lodge at Cleveland, Missouri in 1920.

First mention of renting a car to go to a funeral at Belton Cemetery was in 1921; On November 22, 1921 the Grand Master of Missouri, Most Worshipful R. R. Krieger laid the corner—



stone of Belton Public School; In 1931 water and gas was installed in the lodge.

Raymore Lodge No. 451 consolidated with Belton Lodge No. 450 on Feb. 2, 1937. The lodge was honored by a visit with the Grand Master of Missouri, Most Worshipful Brother Harry S. Truman on Nov. 21, 1940.

During World War II the lodge granted the use of the lodge to the Red Cross and donated bandage kits. Through the Temple Assn., \$1,000 was donated to the Belton Ambulance Fund in 1970.

Through the Belton Temple Assn, a finance committee was formed on Nov. 21, 1962. Its purpose was to raise funds for the building of a new Masonic Temple on ground donated by Robert and Elizabeth Jones. Claude Fleetwood was chairman. Other members were Murray Rosenthal, Cecil and Rebecca Ackerman, Eldean Wyatt and Josephine Sitlington. Elmo Stump, Worshipful Master at that time advised the committee that the lodge had several thousand dollars in a special building fund, which, with \$850 donated by Elizabeth Chapter No. 142 and the line officers, formed the nucleus of financing for the building of the Temple.

Various projects and pledges made by members of the Lodge and Chapter totaled over \$25,000.

An auction held on the grounds on April 20, 1963 netted over \$1,000 and ground was broken for the start of the Temple by Harry S. Truman who donated \$1,000 to the building fund.

The building debt was paid off in 1966 and a dinner was held to celebrate the occasion and the mortgage was burned.

Money raised through fireworks sales and other projects has been used to complete the interior and in 1971 the land-scaping of the front and west side of the grounds was completed mostly through donations from Elizabeth Chapter No. 142 and the Past Matrons and Past Patrons Club. Lights were installed by the Worthy Matron's project of Elizabeth Chapter in co-operation with Job's Daughters.

The cornerstone was laid at the new Masonic Temple at 305 1/2 No. Scott Ave. by Harry S. Truman, past Grand Master, on Dec. 7, 1963 and the first meeting was held 10 days

later on Dec. 17.

The lodge meets regularly on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Officers for 1972 are; Patrick H. Bosley, Worshipful Master; Michael J. McCann, Senior Warden; James M. Mc-Kneelen, Junior Warden, George A. Jursch, Treasurer; and Leonard Drew Laffoon, Secretary.

The appointed officers are Don Boles, Senior Deacon; David LeMasters, Junior Deacon; Marlon Davis, Senior Steward; Lynnie Martin, Junior Steward; Clarence Mabe, Marshal and

C. E. Darwell, Chaplain.

Elmo L. Stump is district deputy Grand Master of 34th Masonic district of Missouri.

Order Eastern Star



On April 10, 1900, 25 people assembled together to form Elizabeth Chapter No. 142, and, by vote of these Charter members, the Chapter was named in memory of the late Elizabeth Oldham, wife of P. W. Oldham, and a charter member of Belton Chapter No. 217, OES, then defunct. By-Laws were drawn up with the stated meetings to be held on Tuesday following the meeting of Belton Lodge No. 450, A.F.& A.M.; but, in 1904, meetings were changed to Monday night preceding the meeting of the Masonic Lodge. Presently the meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month except during July and August, when we vacation until the third

Monday in September.

The Past Matrons' and Past Patrons' Club was formed on August 28, 1929, with 14 ladies present. They now meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Temple with a covered dish dinner and there are 39 active members at present.

Raymore Chapter No. 154, Raymore, Mo., consolidated with Elizabeth Chapter on May 2, 1968, adding 24 members to our rolls. There are 207 members.

Each year, the Worthy Matron has a special project by which many needed furnishings have been added, such as a plano, secretary's desk and chair, and new lights for the front of the Temple. The Chapter also has bought electrical equipment, utensils and tableware for use in the dining room and kitchen.

While the Chapter is not part of the Masonic fraternity, the Order of the Eastern Star is dedicated to assisting them in promoting their objectives of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and in doing what they can for their various charitable organizations, as well as our own.

Present officers are: Susan Machal, Worthy Matron; Thomas Machal, Worthy Patron; Anita Hays, Associate Matron; Edward Hays, Associate Patron; Josephine Sitlington, Secretary; Paul Wyatt, Treasurer; Edna Fenley, Conductress; Mae Mullinix, Associate Conductress; Jane Gibson, Chaplaiu; Hazel Groh, Marshal; Eunice Groves, Organist; Marlyn Kirsch, Adah; Dorothy Baker, Ruth; Anita Rimel, Esther; Annette Whitlow, Martha; Martha Peacock, Electa; Delores Albright, Warder and Orlie Kirsch, Sentinel.

Veterans of Foreign Wars



Ada Groh

Tommy Keeney

The National Veterans of Foreign Wars granted a charter to 28 Belton area residents on Aug. 9, 1946, the beginning of Belton Memorial Post 8220, which now numbers 361 members. The Post held its first meetings in the Belton City Hall with Tom Keeney elected its first commander.

Two years later, on May 13, 1948, an Auxiliary of 16 members was organized with Ada Groh as its first president. In order to raise money for their many activities, the VFW and Auxiliary held monthly ice cream socials during the summer in the City Park, which was then located next door to City Hall, The ladies made home-made ice cream and cakes and stored them in the Belton Home Laundry across the street, which was then owned by the William A. Gochnauers. They also sponsored carnivals on the vacant lot where the Belmo Apartments and the United Super Store now stand. With the proceeds from this

type of event, the Post was able to erect a flag pole and furnish the flag for the Belton Cemetery and alternate putting flags on graves with the American Legion.

By this time a larger meeting place was necessary, meetings were being held in member Don Ryden's barn on Baldwin. The men brought donkey baseball to Belton and the ladies were busy sewing aprons for disabled veterans to send their mothers on Mother's Day. When Ryden's barn was torn down to make room for Belmo Drive, the post began meeting above Meador's Drug Store, where the Belton Mini Theater is now. From this headquarters, the Post members installed the first drinking fountain in the new city park at the end of Commercial St. Post and Auxillary members filled boxes with fruit and candies each Christmas and delivered them to shut-ins and people without families in the community along with their Christmas carols.

In the summer of 1956, members began construction of their present Post home at the west end of Vivian Rd. The men worked with Belton Police patrolling the streets at Halloween, the Auxiliary donated an elm tree to the city park and made monthly trips to the hospital at Excelsior Springs, visiting patients and going on shopping trips for them. The Auxiliary furnished the trash barrels on Main St., which have since been replaced by the present ones donated by the Post two years ago.

At that time, in cooperation with the Belton Garden Club, Post members erected the present flag pole, built sidewalks and furnished the flag now standing in the city park. The Post and Auxiliary sponsor the yearly Buddy Poppy sale, participate in parades with floats, adopt needy families on holidays, sponsor Girl Scout troops, Little League baseball and basketball and provide flags to schools, scouts and other worthwhile organizations.

The Post members donated an ambulance to the city for back up use, in a ceremony at City Hall in 1971. The Post has started a blood bank for residents of the community and currently 112 people have signed up. In our brief history, Belton has grown from a community of 900 to a town of over 12,000. Our present membership contains not only Beltonites, but residents of Grandview, Raytown and Kansas City, to name just a few. It is the desire of the entire membership of Belton Memorial Post 8220 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to be of service to the community and to its needy, however and whenever asked.

The 1971 officers of the Post and Auxiliary are as follows: Post officers for 1971 are Gary L. Nolen, commander; Don Rinehart, senior vice-commander; Lonnie Loftin, junior vicecommander; Rusty John, chaplain; Ray Shafer, quartermaster.

Present Auxiliary officers are Mary Miller, president; Ruth Kidney, senior vice-president; Phyllis Haskins, junior vice-president; Barbara Loftin, chaplain; Carmen Potts, treasurer; Maxine Turntine, secretary.

Belton American Legion

Belton's American Legion Post was chartered in 1946, 41 veterans of World War I and II made up this group. Warren Ruch was one of the chief organizers but moved from the community before the charter was granted.

William V. Powell was the first commander, Leo Mosby was adjutant and Weldon Jackson finance officer. This post had been preceded by another American Legion Post, Keeney-Norris which was organized after World War I but had become non-existent.

The main concern after organziation was to find a permanent home. A building fund was started and the American Legion's first money raising projects were a wrestling match, followed by public fairs, town basketball tournaments and various other enterprises. Finally a site was purchased and the Legion members built the American Legion building (501 Main St.). Over the years it has been a meeting place for many groups and organizations and for the last several years has housed Belton's library.

Some of the other commanders are: Warren Dial, F. S. (Duke) Turner, Chester Meador, Wayne Pennington, Ben Faust, George Eblen, Wallace Blair, Weldon Jackson, Charley Henderson, Nelson Mullen, W. A. (June) Holloway, Lyman Bishop, Henry Dryer and many others.

The legion annually sponsors Boys State, American Legion awards to the graduating seniors and gives financial aid to many other worthwhile projects, including a \$500 donation to the recent ambulance fund drive.

Present officers are William V. Powell, commander; J.



Wallace Blair (far right) and William V. Powell present American Legion certificates of commendation for outstanding community service to members of the Belton Fire Department.

Weldon Jackson, first vice commander; Wallace Blair, adjutant and F. S. (Duke) Turner, finance officer.

Independent Order of Oddfellows

Since December 19, 1949, Belton Lodge #891 IOOF, has been meeting regularly in Belton. Previous charters had been granted for Lodge numbers 439 in 1892; 744 in 1907 and as number 873. For one reason or another the charters were dropped in 1900, 1910 and in 1935 the Lodge became inactive due to the hardship of the times. The last Noble Grand listed was J. C. Shroyer, a barber on Main Street for a number of years.

In December of 1949, a group of men from the Belton area met with Oddfellows of the Kansas City area and the state officers. Jimmy Tucker was Grand Master at that time. The meeting, held in the old high school building resulted in a charter being issued for Lodge #891. It was obtained primarily through the efforts of E. R. Peters, Peter Zimmerman, Wayne Pennington, George Ashbaugh and Homer Smith. The latter three had been members of Lodge #873. Peters was elected Noble Grand, Henry R. Dryer was elected Vice Grand.

Pictured are officers for 1972. Front row (1 to r) Theodore Roberts, Noble Grand; Pete Schnackenberg, Vice-Grand; back row, Henry Dryer, secretary (a post he has held since 1952); Wilford Bridgforth, financial secretary and Noah E. Johnston, treasurer.

The ladies organization is the Rebekah Lodge.



Rebekah Lodge



During Belton's Centennial year, Rebekah Lodge No. 763 will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. It was instituted Dec. 27, 1922 with the following charter members: Pearl March, Mrs. W. J. Bradford, Pearl Shroyer, Lillie Mae Reed, Hattie Logan, Emma Enloe and Rhoda Norris all of whom also served at one time as Noble Grands. Other charter members were Mrs. Emma Blair, Mrs. G. A. Short, Elizabeth Groh, Abe White, C. B. Taylor, Jessie Ruch, W. S. Bane, C. H. G. Sprinkle, Viola O. Jones, Bessie Alderson, V. L. Partridge,

B. C. Alderson, Harry W. Stine, John R. Sheridan, D. D. Logan, J. A. Batterton, Naomi E. Jackson, Dr. E. D. Enloe, I. C. Shroyer, Grace T. Casper, Hallie F. Sprinkle, Marietta Sprinkle and Florence Smith the only charter member still living.

The Lodge has had some trying times but has always managed to keep going. At present we have 42 members, some of whom are brother Oddfellows. (An Oddfellow in good standing can be a member of Rebekah Lodge.) The Lodge is active in our District and State Assemblies. The work of the Lodge consists of caring for members in times of need and sorrow, but the greatest work is helping support the Rebekah Home for the Aged in Liberty, Mo.

Three of the members have been past District Presidents, Naomi Zimmerman, Nellie Stafford and Gladys Pennington all of whom were also Noble Grands of the local lodge.

Other Noble Grands who have served locally besides those also mentioned have been Marie Meador, Mary Jones, Kathrine Rider, Grace (Short) Hudson, Hinda Coomes, Orlyn Jackson, Kathrine Searcy, Bertha Zimmerman, Violet Clutter, Edith Gross, Opal Bridgforth, Cora Moss, Rose (Glenn) Ketterman, Mattie Wallace, Grace McNutt, Edith Parrish, Kathy Grisham, Esther Keeney, Sarah Shaw, Anna Belle Affolter, Alta Hundley, Edna Bullock, Irene Anderson, Gertrude Elkins, Mary Pitts, Etta Williams, Lila Johnston, Bonnie Dale, Ruby Johnston, Betty Shelton, and Velma Foote.

The Quaker Club

The Quaker Club came into being at a luncheon in March of 1940 when 12 young mothers decided to meet monthly.

The name quaker was chosen for this friendly, quiet group. They dedicated themselves to the promotion of friendship, conversation and growing old gracefully.

For 31 years the members have met each month. Loosely organized, they are headed by a spokesman, assistant spokesman and a scribbler. No member holds office more frequently than once in three years,

Many special celebrations have been held for births, and weddings of their children.

We have celebrated 25th and 35th wedding anniversaries of all members. Four couples have celebrated their 50th anniversaries. They are: Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mosby and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Meador.

In 1945 the husbands formed the Quaker Dads and continue to meet at the same time but separately from the Quakers.

The Quaker family includes the Quakers, Quaker Dads, Quakerettes, Quakeroates and Quakerpets.

The charter members were Mrs. Harry Meador, Mrs. Chester Meador, Mrs. Carl Henderson, Mrs. Charles



Henderson, Mrs. E. S. Wilhite, Mrs. Herbert Thompson, Mrs. F. S. Turner, Mrs. Carl Ray, Mrs. Millard McCulloh, Mrs. Frank Mosby and Claude Lofland. Dr. Gertrude McKee and Miss Annette Maack were added after Mrs. Ray and Mrs. McCulloh moved away.

Our deceased members are George E. Spear, Dr. Gertrude McKee, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henderson and Hobart Thompson.

A.A.U.W.

The American Association of University Women is an organization that promotes the educational advancement of women. Its members are university and college graduates from approved schools in the United States and its possessions. One of the main purposes of the organization is to raise educational standards. It publishes a quarterly journal, bulletins, guides and research papers. Each year it offers graduate fellowships.

The association was founded in Boston in 1882, In 1920 it helped to organize the International Federation of University

Women

The Belton Branch of the AAUW was chartered by the national organization on April 7, 1960. The charter members in Belton were: Mrs. George Adams, Mrs. Lottie Bottum, Mrs. Homer Cox, Mrs. John Duvall, Marjorie Gordy, Gladys Hall, Barbara Halsey Allard, Mrs. Homer Hann, Judy Hamomato, Mrs. Estell R. O'Dell, Mrs. Marshall C. Peavy, Mrs. Monte Peterson, Mrs. Ives Reid, Mrs. Don Seba, Lena Walters, Mary Wille and Eldean Wyatt.

The first president was Mrs. Charles Allard. The present officers are: Mrs. Homer Hann, president; Mrs. Judy Booth, first vice-president; Mrs. Nancy Rowe, second vice-president; Miss Delores White, recording secretary; Mrs. Audys Duvall, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Frederick Bush, treasurer; Mrs. Marshall C. Peavy, publicity; Mrs. Charles Yeokum, historian and Mrs. Alva Byler, parliamentarian.

Each month the American Association of University Women recognizes a Belton High School senior girl, who is selected by the high school faculty in accordance with recommendations of AAUW regarding the selection. Lena Walters, a high school faculty member, has been the co-ordinator for this project. At each meeting she introduces the "Senior Girl of the Month" and presents the charm, given by the organization,

as a token of recognition. The first recipient was Janis Thomsen in 1964. Another service project has been a \$50 stipend given the daughter or son of a member, provided they further their education after graduation from high school. The first recipient of this was Marlene Peavy in 1969.

The Belton Branch pursues a steady project for a period of two years, the project is selected from one of four being



studied by AAUW throughout the United States. The organization is interested in local, national and international affairs and aims to inform the members through speakers, book reports, and numerous study projects. A state bulletin is received by each member informing them of accomplishments of the branches in Missouri.

Beta Sigma Phi Eta Nu



Beta Sigma. Phi is an organization to unite women in fellowship and friendship; to promote the cultural development of such members and to foster association with each other in pursuit of the liberal arts in a definite and concerted manner.

Eta Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi is one of four chapters in Belton, and was organized in March, 1957 by a member of the International offices traveling staff, Bonnie Griffith. The Charter Members of Eta Nu were: Helen Clark (Mrs. Howard), Irene Flaherty (Mrs. Donald), Patricia Johnson (Mrs. George), Josephine Key (Mrs. John), Oma McKay (Mrs. John), Winnie McMillan (Mrs. Robert), Patricia Pettigrew (Mrs. Willis), Margaret Weeks (Mrs. Edgar). Oma McKay was the first president of this chapter. An Exemplar Chapter was formed from the membership of the original Eta Nu Chapter in May, 1963, leaving behind a group of new girls to carry on the traditions of Eta Nu. Membership in Eta Nu has been and is still kept at a total of 21 due to the fact that meetings are held in homes twice a month. Each meeting includes a cultural program with socializing afterwards.

Through the years, members in Eta Nu have participated in many community projects such as buying furniture for the swimming pool; contributing toward the ambulance fund and participating in Homecoming activities. Some of the service projects have included helping needy families in the community, serving nursing homes in one way or another, shampooing hair of patients in hospitals and nursing homes and sponsoring the Lee Mace Ozark Opry in Belton for two years for the purpose of contributing to the Kidney Foundation. Sending Christmas "Ditty Bags" to servicemen is an annual project now.

In accordance with International standards, Eta Nu Chapter has been rated a three-star chapter (highest rating) every year since its beginning. Pictured are Virginia Goucher, secretary; Dolly VanHorne, vice-president; Bev Lamb, president; Betty Robertson, treasurer, and Kate Nixou, civil defense officer and city committee alternate.

Xi Gamma Phi

Xi Gamma Phi is an exemplar chapter of Beta Sigma Phi since April 1969. It was originally chartered as a Ritual of Jewels chapter as Theta Gamma, on Sept. 2, 1959. Charter members were Barbara Allard, Mary Lou Bricker, Sherry Carter, Jackie Fuchs, Dana Hamilton, Mary Ann Hartzler, Karen Hawley, Betty Jones, Sue Knebel, Joan Lowry, Betty McCully, Judy Mitchell, Aleta Mullins, Marilyn Oehlschlaeger and Joan Shields.

Present officers are: Joan Shields, president; Dan Hamilton, vice-president; Katie Walters, recording secretary; Susan Gooding, corresponding secretary; Barbara Whitaker, treasurer and Donna Drake, extension officer.

The club has supported a variety of civic endeavors, among them support for a school for the deaf in Independence, Mo. and more recently support has been given to a Beta Sigma Phi member who has had need of a kidney machine.

Optimist Club

The Belton Optimist Club "Friend of the Boy" was organized in Belton in 1961 and was chartered February 19, 1962. The first president of the club was H, E, Fleetwood, secretary-treasurer was Carl Gum.

Dr. Paul R. Perme is the current president, Ed Greenwell is secretary and Jerry Plank is treasurer.

This organization has been very active in sponsoring boys activities and other worthwhile projects in the community.

The annual Easter pancake breakfast and the selling of a beef in the fall is the chief methods of raising funds.

Breakfast meetings are held each Thursday morning at the Methodist Church.

Pictured front row (I to r) are EdGreenwell, Paul Perme, Jerry Plank and Weldon Jackson. Back row, Jim Huckshorn, Fred Busker, Charles Higman, Vernon Wille, Jim Rutledge, Rolf Crockett, Bill Mosby, Jim Shannahan and Charles Walters.



Belton Belles China Painters



The Belton Belles China Painting Club was founded in 1967 by Mrs. Leaphy Hulen and Mrs. Pauline Wolfe with the help of Mrs. Myrtle Frey.

At that time there were 12 members, Mrs. Leona Bronson, Mrs. Leaphy Hulen, Mrs. Josephine Keys, Mrs. Dorothy Lane, Mrs. Ruth Quistgard, Mrs. Anna Stein, Mrs. Mildred Smith, Mrs. Faye Wallace, Miss Billie Wilson, Mrs. Pauline Wolfe, Mrs. Mildred Wyatt, Mrs. Ona Wyatt, and Mrs. Myrtle Frey

(teacher).

The club became a member of the State Association of China Painters of Missouri in June, 1967 and also a member of the World Organization of China Painters, an organization whose purpose is to promote the fine art of china painting.

The first open house was held Feb. 8, 1969 and the second May 8, 1971 at the Missouri Public Service Office in Belton

At the State Convention held in April 1970, the Club's Book was awarded "Honorable Mention" for the presentation of the history of the club.

There have been several guest instructors including Mrs. Inez McPherson from Independence, Mo., Elfride Schutt from Kansas City, Mo., Esther Eames, from Kentucky. Mrs. Dema Boy from Independence was a guest teacher two years—1969-1970—but had to drop out because of illness. The group is looking forward to her return.

The group is rather small now as some of the members have moved and one of the original members, Mrs. Ona Wyatt, died in December 1969.

The group met in Leaphy Hulen's home for four years. At the present time the meetings are held in various member's homes.

Present members are Mrs. Leona Bronson, Mrs. Leaphy Hulen, Mrs. Jo Keys, Mrs. Dorothy Lane, Mrs. Flossie Mc-Kinley, Mrs. Mildred Smith, Mrs. Anna Stein, Mrs. Faye Wallace, Mrs. Pauline Wolfe, Mrs. Irene Worrell, and Mrs. Myrtle Frey, teacher.

Bits and Spurs Saddle Club

This non-profit group was organized in 1968 to promote the appreciation of horses and the enjoyment of group riding,

Charter officers were Dale Phillips, president; Cecil Robbins, vice-president; Sheila Park, secretary-treasurer. Board members were Paul Imming, Phil Barker and Julian Dminski, Jr.

The group has participated in the American Royal for the past three years, enters parades and Grand Entry of area horse shows and the Benjamin Stables Annual Rodeo. The entire club belongs to the Golden Circle Horse Show Circuit, which encompasses a 100 mile radius from Raytown.

The club has a yearly "Fun Show" with the Richards-Gebaur Saddle Club and sponsors the yearly Golden Circle Horse Show.

The group, whose membership now stands at 100, is a family club whose activities also include trail rides, picnics, skating parties and social "get-togethers."

Dorpha Club



Soon after the turn of the century 24 ladies organized into what was known as the Priscilla Club whose main interest was fancy work. The name was changed to the Dorpha Club in 1904.

Later, it became more of a study club and the group has enjoyed many interesting programs. Since its organization, the club has met continuously, either monthly or bi-monthly. There is a present membership of 14. Present members and the year they joined are: Mrs. J. L. Sams (1908), Mrs. R. L. Rosier (1921), Mrs. McCloud Pearce (1931), Mrs. J. Harry Lawrence (1940), Mrs. W. H. Kratz, Mrs. A. Ives Reid, Mrs. F. S.

Turner, Mrs. E. S. Wilhite all who joined in 1941, Mrs. Earl Barr (1962), Misses Florence and Lena Small (1969) and Mrs. L. V. Bumgardner, Mrs. Nelson Mullen and Mrs. Robert Holloway, 1970.

Pictured (1 to r) are: Mrs. Nelson Mullen (secretary-treasurer), Mrs. Harry Lawrence, Miss Lena Small, Mrs. Earl Barr (president); Mrs. W. H. Kratz, Mrs. E. S. Wilhite, Mrs. Robert Holloway, Mrs. F. S. Turner, Miss Florence Small and Mrs. L. V. Bumgardner, vice-president.

In 1934, the Dorpha Club sponsored the organizing of the Dorpha Daughters Club. Charter members were daughters and daughters-in-law of the senior club. Present members are Elizabeth Blair, Jane Dodson, Elizabeth Dryden, Elnora Fay, Lois Ferrel, Elaine George, Marita Knoche, Tory Montgomery, Lorraine Owen, Mary Catherine Sams, Barbara Scott, Fay Thomsen and Eldean Wyatt.

Church Women United

The purpose of Church Women United is "to encourage church women to come together in a visible fellowship to witness their faith and to go out together into every neighborhood and nation as an instrument of His reconciling love."

Mrs. Henry Mott organized the local unit of CWU in 1965. Three observances are celebrated during the year, World Day of Prayer, May Fellowship Day and World Community Day.

The local unit supports the migrant ministry in the bootheel of Missouri, sew items of clothing for school children and make layettes that are distributed throughout the world.

Volunteers serve locally in furnishing transportation, emergency food, clothing and furniture as needs arise. Presently, the Crosslines program is under study and it is hoped it will be operational this year.

Members of the following churches are active in CWU: Belton Christian Church, Lord of Love Lutheran Church, St. Sabina's Catholic Church, Belton Community Presbyterian Church, Assembly of God Church, Protestant Women of the



Chapel and Catholic Women of the Chapel from Richards-Gebaur AFB, Belton, Raymore and Belvidere United Methodist Churches.

Present officers of the group are Mrs. Wilma McFarland, president; Mrs. Curtis Gist, vice-president; Mrs. Andrew Zay, secretary and Mrs. Edith Bumgardner, treasurer.

Sunrise Terrace Community Impovement Corp.

The Sunrise Terrace Community Improvement Corp. is a non-profit organization chartered May 19, 1969. Members are from the newly annexed West Belton area and the group has undertaken a variety of projects in its short existence.

They have sponsored community picnics, free trash pickups, distributed silver maple trees to the community, paved their streets with hot mix provided by the City of Belton, cleared brush and burned vacant lots, organized youth activities in the area, provided ball diamonds for the area, sponsored a neighborhood Easter egg hunt the past two years, donated to needy families at Christmas, worked for the passage of sewer bonds, donated to the Belton Ambulance Fund, conducted voter registration drives and have put a park at 174th Street and South Benton in playing condition. More recently, the group has undertaken to provide a community center for the neighborhood. Land has been purchased and fund raising projects will be held to bring the project to a successful conclusion. Present officers are Bob Crane, president; Mike Jackson, vice-president; Shirley Tate, secretary; Grace (Roni) Skivers, treasurer and Eugene Boon, co-treasurer.

Ladies Fire Auxiliary



The Belton Ladies Fire Auxiliary was organized in March 1970, with a membership of 24. It was the first fire auxiliary in Cass County and the organizational drive was headed by Velma Brunner. The original officers were Jo Allen, president; Velva Brunner, vice-president; Janice Pratt, secretary and Wanda McCombs, treasurer.

With over \$1,000 raised the first year, the group has purchased boots, hats, lanterns, Indian pumps and other equipment. A collapsible stretcher and mattress was obtained for the Belton Ambulance. In addition, the group has made efforts to help in assisting families who have suffered losses by fires and during the clean-up operations after Main St. was hit by a tornado not long ago, the group was on hand with hot coffee for the workers. Their aim is a better fire department for Belton.

Royal Neighbors

Prim Rose Camp of the RNA was organized March 6, 1901 with the following charter members: Rose Gilham (the first Oracle), William A. Gillaham, Anna L. White, William D. Wilhite, Lillian E. Cunningham, Maggie M. Houston, Mattie C. Strothers, Marietta Sprinkle, Jessie L Pillow, Charles E. Parrotte, Zadah M. Crouch, James M. Houston, Grace Casper, Harry Cunningham, Minnie E. Cope, J. S. Strother, M. D., Frank C. Cope, C. H. G. Sprinkle, Lizzie J. Strother, L. J. Strahn, and Frank Post. Charles Casper, the last of the charter members died August 7, 1969 at the age of 95.

Besides Casper, the following have received 50-year pins: Mrs. Mary Hundley, Mrs. Pearl March, Mrs. Maude Hawthorne, Mrs. Edna Bullock and Mrs. Edna Chandler.

A fire at the home of Mrs. Henry Grimes several years ago destroyed all the records of the club. Mrs. Grimes was recorder.

During the fifties, the club had several drill teams which performed at various functions. The drill team consisted of 16 members and Clarence Peacock was drill master. Mrs. Edith Gross and Mrs. Edna Bullock were leaders in drill teams for several years at the county conventions.

Pictured are the present members (back row, 1to r) Alice



Porter, Martha Peacock, Lottie Miller, Johnnie Deere, Frances Zutterman, Ruby Johnston, Mildred Walton, Edna Bullock, oldest member; (front row, 1 to r) Mary Pitts, Audys Duvall, Sharon Jeffrey, Joanne Albright (Oracle), Augusta Isley, and Delores Albright.

4-H Clubs



4-H Clubs were first introduced in the Belton area in 1932. Mrs. Charles Henderson was leader of a sewing club of 11-year-old girls and Mrs. F. S. (Duke) Turner was leader of a sewing club of ten-year-old girls. During the following 16 years, other clubs were organized, including baking, canning, raising colts, ewe and lamb, eutomology and accessories. Other leaders and assistants included Mrs. Carl Elliot, Mrs. Wesley McKinley, Mrs. George Ashbaugh, Mrs. Earl Miller, Miss Bernice Miller, Mrs. Jess Mosby and Ralph Lamar.

Highlights of those years were the Achievement Days held in the building at 420 Main and in Harrisonville and the annual trip to the American Royal. A few lucky blue ribbon winners won a trip to the National 4-H Achievement Day in Chicago and to the State Fair in Sedalia.

The Pacemakers 4-H Club has been a part of the Belton community for the past seven years. The first club charter was in 1959 under the name, Cleveland Club of Cleveland,

Mo. Because of the many members from Belton, the club became the Pacemakers 4-H Club in late 1965.

The club has been one of the more successful clubs with one of the smallest list of members and one of the best participation records in the country. It has received a first or second place the last six years for community improvement. We have helped a needy family at Thanksgiving and Christmas for the past few years. We have picked up roadways for several miles all around Belton and have worked with the local churches in their drives for the men in Vietnam.

Officers pictured are front row (I to r) Dennis Lancaster,

president; Keith Randof, game leader; Kay LaGore, game leader; Debbie Cotterman, game leader. Back row: Randy McKee, reporter; Patricia Randof, secretary; Tammy Odom, treasurer; Debbie Masterman, historian; Aletha Collier, vicepresident.

4-H has been part of American History for over 50 years. We are happy to say that the members of the Pacemakers 4-H Club have been a part of the community for almost a decade of Belton's 100 years. We want to wish you much luck in the coming years to be a great city. We will continue to help the Belton community with our motto, 'To make the best better.'

P.T.A. Council

A Council of PTA is a group of local PTA units organized under the authority of the state PTA for the purpose of conference, leadership training and co-ordination of the efforts of the local PTA units.

The Belton Council of PTA's was started on Nov. 21, 1968, with Col. Ed Norem, president; Mrs. Larry Cotton, vice-president; Mrs. Mary Burrington, secretary and Mrs. Frances Griggs, treasurer.

The council now consists of the following PTA groups: Cambridge, Hillcrest, Scott, and William O. Gladden Elementary schools.

Pictured (1 to r) are the following officers and members for the 1971-72 school year. Mrs. Richard Dove, Mrs. George E. Hotz, Mrs. Leo Jeck, Mrs. Art King, vice-president, Mrs. Robert Hartley, treasurer, Mrs. Michael Bartlett, Jerry D. Sparks, John D. Watson, Mrs. Elvin M. McCune, Longview District Director, and Mrs. Gary R. Johnson, president. Not pictured is Mrs. Ronald Hobson, secretary.



Gladden Elementary



Westover Road Elementary School first opened its doors in January 1960. That same year a PTA group was formed. Although the school was formally rededicated the W. O. Gladden Elementary School in December, 1971, the charter is still for Westover PTA at this time. To raise funds for the school an annual carnival is held. Blacktop for the school grounds, clocks, record players and an overhead projector are a few of the items purchased by the PTA for the school. In addition, the PTA has helped pay for tours and field trips taken by the different classes.

Pictured are officers for the 1971-72 school year. They are (1 to r) William Morrison, second vice-president; Willa Fawcett, president; Andrea Eddy, secretary-treasurer. Not pictured is Anthony Weiss, first vice-president.

Cambridge Elementary

About one year after the opening of Cambridge Elementary School, a meeting was held to discuss organizing a PTA group. The first official meeting was held Oct. 8, 1962.

The original officers were Douglas Thompson, president; Jack Cornelison, vice-president; Mrs. James B. Swaggart, secretary; Mrs. Jack Cornelison, treasurer and Mrs. Russell Feeback, historian.

The Cambridge PTA Carnival, which has become an annual event was held March 16, 1965. That first event cleared \$998.91 compared to almost \$1,500 at the 1971 carnival.

The proceeds from these carnivals have been used for such things as landscaping of the school playground; purchase of fans, projector, listening centers and tapes, duplicating machine and installing a tornado warning system.



Other past presidents have been: Douglas Thompkins, Herman Griggs, Jim Utterback, Charlotte Attebery and LeRoy Carter.

Officers for 1971-72 year are; Jerry Sparks, president; June Hotz, vice-president; Wayna Schwartz, secretary; Rachel Campbell, treasurer and Linda Bain, historian. Members of the executive committee include Harry Butler, principal of Cambridge; Martha Bartlett, Becky Finstead, Ralph Cruzen, Kay Stubler, Jim Dickerson, Jean Johnson, Arthelia Pritchard, Sue Stephanie, Diane Lindberg, Kay Payne and Kathy Cummings.

Cambridge PTA has 323 members.

Hillcrest Elementary

Hillcrest PTA was formed the year the school opened in 1963. The first elected officers were Dorothy Looney, president; Elaine George, vice-president; Peggy Dryden, secretary; Vona McCain, treasurer and Alberta Lee, historian.

Through the years this group has sponsored various moneymaking projects with the proceeds being used to purchase items to improve the school, including fans which have been put in each room.

In 1968, a chili supper was held, that was such a success it has become an annual event. Other projects have included the sale of school sweatshirts, and the annual class group pictures which are taken in the spring.

Pictured are the present officers (1 to r top) Bill Dunnam, treasurer; Keith Collins, spiritual chairman; Bob Hartley, president; Richard Hixon, vice-president; O. Paul Ray, school principal; Betty Duff, projects chairman; Doris Hixon, membership. Bottom row: Kala Handley, budget chairman; Mary Oehlschlaeger, secretary; Virginia Kobiec, public re-



lations and Delores Collins, membership. Not pictured are Yvonne Hartley, hospitality and Carolyn Goffoy, historian.

Scott Elementary



Scott Elementary PTA is the newest of Belton's PTA groups and was organized September 1971 when the Scott Street school became the fourth elementary school due to the split shifts which affected grades eight through 12.

Pictured are officers elected at the November meeting with Bob Gauldin, principal of Scott and director of elementary education for the Belton school system. Shown are (I to r): Mrs. Ronald Hobson, Norma Evans, Betty Ray, Barbara Brown, Sharon Jeck, Bob Gauldin, Marge Jones and Marjorie Shepard.

Officers for the 1972-73 school year are Sharon Jeck, president; Sherry Willey, vice-president; Edith Beeman, treasurer and Mrs. Ronald Hobson, secretary.

Belton Garden Club

The Belton Garden Club has been active in Belton since 1955. Officers elected from the eight women present were Mrs. F. S. Turner, president and Mrs. Ives Reid, secretary.

The first of the club's annual flower shows was held in September, 1956 by 15 members and an attendance of some 200 viewers.

Working in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce in 1956, the club sponsored a "Yard of the Week." Outstanding lawns or gardens were recognized weekly from May until October. A sign was placed in the winner's yard for one week. Eleven families were so designated that year.

Other club projects have included, planting gardens on North Scott Ave., and in Memorial Park; helping the Girl Scouts plan Peace Park; the setting out of trees within Belton and taking a tree census; judging junior high science fairs; co-operating with the Community Betterment program on trash pick-ups; sponsoring an anti-litter poster contest in the fifth grades and judging Christmas decorations in Raymore.

Present officers for the club which became federated in 1969 are (1 to r) Mrs. Donna Wear, secretary; Mrs.



W. G. Hoppen, vice-president; Mrs. Dorothy Looney, historion; Mrs. F. H. Cummings, president and Mrs. Harry Owen, treasurer. Present membership is 14.

Chamber of Commerce

During the early years Belton's business and professional people banded together as The Commercial Club. This became eventually the Belton Booster Club and then during the late thirties became the Chamber of Commerce, As such, it was a leader in many civic projects, the most notable during those depression years was leading the effort to bring the Grace Company Garment Factory to Belton. During the forties. they aided the effort to obtain house-to-house mail delivery.

Records are not complete on the organization but projects that have been sponsored by the group include the original Air Force Appreciation night which was held for the first time in 1954 soon after the Air Force established headquarters at Richards-Gebaur AFB. It was an affair, unique in civilianmilitary community relationship. The first affair was planned for approximately 600 people and drew instead almost 2,500 people. The affair continued to be a highlight of Belton's Fourth of July celebrations until about three years ago when the name was changed to Community Day.

The Chamber has also sponsored Belton's Christmas lighting project through the years turning that over to the Belton Jaycees the last two years.

Brochures for newcomers and other requesting information on Belton are supplied by the Chamber. It has sup-



ported improvements in the city and schools and was a backer of the free polio vaccine program several years ago.

Pictured (1 to r) are the present officers Russell Turk. treasurer; Mrs. Olive Jackson, secretary; Dr. C. F. Yeokum, president and Carl Gum, vice-president,

Presidents since 1957 have included, George Spear, Jr., Wally Brunworth, Harold Fennema, Frank Blair, V. F. Shortino, Paul Panek, John Howard, Thad Corder, Delmar Wayman, Bob Smith, Vernon Mucke, J. Weldon Jackson, Jim Luster, Claude Fleetwood and Ed Hartzler.

Belton Coin Club



The Belton Coin Club was organized Jan. 28, 1969 to bring together adults and young people who had an interest in numismatics. The original officers were Virginia Bronson, president; Charles Wales, Jr., vice-president; Jean Mills, secretary and Thad Corder, treasurer. Members decided the junior members should have their own officers and the following were elected: Duane Miller, president; Tom Walter, vicepresident; Alan Jacobs, secretary and Ken Walter, treasurer.

The club immediately became affiliated with the American Numismatic Assn. and has participated in national and local numismatical programs by presenting exhibits and talks; by entering competitive exhibits in area shows and participating in National Coin Week activities,

The club has evolved into a basically junior club but membership is open to anyone with an interest in coins. Centennial year officers are pictured. Second from left, back row, Tim Saultz, president; Mark Gerlach, secretary, Front row. Dan Cotterman, vice-president and Bruce Terhune, treasurer. Also pictured is David Cotterman who won a membership prize at the election meeting.

Camp Fire Girls

The present Camp Fire Girls started in Belton in the spring of 1963 although a group was active as early as 1919. Mrs. Dorothy Ward and Mrs. Dixie Higgins started the present group with the assistance of Mrs. Joyce Appel and Mrs. Jean Hangley.

Two groups of the Blue Birds were formed. Belton was organized again in 1969 by Mrs. Counie Vogel with the assistance of Mrs. Joanne Albright when three groups started one group of Blue Birds and two groups of Camp Fire Girls. By 1970 there were three groups of Blue Birds and two groups of Camp Fire Girls.

Then in 1971 all four grade schools were organized by Louise Paul. There is now a membership of approximately 160 girls from the Belton and Richards-Gebaur area, with six Blue Bird groups and five Camp Fire Groups, There is also one group of Junior High girls.

Belton is part of District IV of the Kansas City Council of Camp Fire Girls, Inc. Blue Birds are first, second and third grade girls. Camp Fire Girls are fourth, fifth, and sixth grade girls. Junior High consists of seventh, eighth and ninth grades. Camp Fire does have a program for Horizon Club Girls consisting of tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade girls but none are active in Belton at this time.

The Blue Bird program consists of fulfilling the Blue Bird wish. The Camp Fire program teaches the girls things they will need later in life on a continuous up-dated basis. The Camp Fire program is geared to maintaining a girl's femininity and yet introducing her to the fun of out-of-doors. The costume colors are red, white and blue.

Alpha Delta Kappa



Beta Beta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa was installed on February 14, 1965 in Belton Missouri. The charter members were Betty (Hendrix) Frank, Alice Cox, Betty Jo Ferryman, Joyce Fink, Vivian Greener, Andretta Lowry, Ethel Rushing, Marie Franklin, Eleanor Hamby, and Jimmie Kirby. There are 15 active members in the chapter at the present time. The purposes of Alpha Delta Kappa are:

A. To give recognition to outstanding women educators who are actively engaged inteaching, administration, or in some specialized field of the teaching profession.

B. To build a fraternal fellowship among women in the teaching profession which will add to their effectiveness in the promotion of excellence in e⁻¹ cation.

C. To promote high standards of education and thereby strengthen the status and advancement of the teaching profession.

D. To promote educational and charitable projects and activities, to sponsor scholarships, to further and maintain worthy standards in the field of education, and to co-operate with worthy community programs relating to education and charities.

Pictored are the 1971-72 officers. They are (lto r) Christine Carr, president; Vivian Greener, vice-president; Betty Frank, corresponding secretary; Delores White, historian; Jerlene List, treasurer and Joyce McCann, sergeant-at-arms (not pictured is Florence Hartsock, recording secretary.)

High Blue Club

The High Blue Extension Club was organized at the High Blue School in September, 1933 by Laura Turner and Louella Henderson, members of the Belton Home Improvement Club. The members lived in the area and were patrons of the school. The first president was Blanche Reeder, Hazel Mosby was secretary. There were nine charter members, six are still active members. The present president is Flossie McKinley and membership now stands at 13, several of whom are daughters of former members.

The club has made many donations to both Mercy and Harrisonville Hospitals; furnished leaders and sponsored 4-H Clubs; been involved in the annual County achievement Day, and participated in county fund drives and activities of the school, until it was consolidated with the Belton School district in 1953. The schoolhouse burned in 1961. Trips have been made to interesting places and buildings in the surrounding area. The club meets monthly in the homes of its members, with programs on a variety of crafts and the projects sponsored by the Extension Department of the University of Missouri.



Members in 1950 included back row (1 to r) Mildred Walton, Flossie McKinley, Hazel Mosby and Laura Turner. Front row, Anna Miller and Grace Ashbaugh.

Belton Lions Club

The Belton Lions Club first organized in May, 1936, operated for five years until 1941. It remained idle until 1953, when it was reorganized and has been active ever since.

Accomplishments of the club through the years are impressive, covering a wide range of activities. They organized one of Belton's first Boy Scout troops in 1937, sponsored work of the 4-H clubs, presented a registered Hampshire gilt to a Future Farmers group, led in street lighting and decorating through the Christmas holidays, set up a welfare committee to give baskets to the needy at Christmas, sponsored a watermelon feast with Dale Carnegie as guest, provided several pairs of eyeglasses for those in need, had warning signals placed in school areas, aided the Red Cross and conducted a safety program, before the club disbanded in 1941.

Since its reorganization, the club has organized softball teams, erected Lions Welcome signs, constructed a bus shelter on Highway 71, assisted with the naming of streets and numbering of bouses in preparation for city mail delivery, held teen dances, served food at Air Force Appreciation night, sponsored Halloween parades, placed trash barrels in Belton city park and have adopted rest homes in the area for visits and gifts at Christmas time.

In the last few years, the club has promoted its eyesafety program and continues to be an active civic group in Belton, sponsoring various fund raising projects throughout the year.

Present officers are Jack Fleming, president; B. K. Dameron, second vice-president; Bob Perry, third vice-president; Jerry Romig, secretary-treasurer; Joe Gurley and Bill Powell, directors; Dave Attebery, tail twister and Charley Shoemaker, lion tamer.

Senior Citizens Club



Celebrating its third birthday in April, 1972 was the Belton Senior Citizens Club. The first officers were Bernice Collins, president; Mazie Meador McKee, vice-president; Clea Crow, secretary and Blanche Schaffer, treasurer. The charter members were Edna Bullock, Mayme Harrison, Mary Hundley, Gladys Pennington, Minnie Zumwalt, Julie Holmes, Mary Cunningham and Era Marshall.

The non-denominational group is open to anyone sixty years old or older. The purpose of the club is fellowship, programs, travel, fin and to get acquainted with other senior citizens and to be of service to them. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of the Belton United Methodist Church at 11:30 a.m. A covered dish luncheon is held, followed by a business meeting and social

hour or program.

Among the programs have been slides of member's trips to Russia and Hawaii, speakers from the social security office, and a film of the "Show Me State". Trips by the groups have included one to "Arrow Rock", a tour of the Ozarks while the Dogwood was in bloom and one to the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene. Birthdays of members are celebrated every three months and special dinners are held to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. The club also helps someone who is alone to have a happier Christmas.

Pictured are some of the members at a meeting early this year and reading right to left, standing, Bernice Collins, vice-president; Blandeau Peek, president; Gladys Pennington, secretary and seated, second row right, Madalyn Mullen, treasurer.

Girl Scouts

Although there were active Girl Scouttroops in the forties, troop membership fell off, and it was not until 1951 that it was reorganized and has continued to grow since then.

Early leaders for the five troops in the spring of 1951 were: Phoebe McKee, Virginia Mosby, Elizabeth Blair, Henrietta Folk and Pauline Steinbrueck. The first neighborhood chairman was Bernice Robie and the first day camp was held in 1959 at the Paul Smith farm west of Belton, Betty McDonald was the first day camp director.

By 1960, there were ten active troops. No campsite was available that year so all troops had a three day outing at Camp Prairie Schooner. Until 1968, the area was known as the Osage Neighborhood of the Pioneer Trails of Girl Scouts. In that year it became a branch of Association 19 of the Mid-Continent Council of Girl Scouts with offices in Kansas City.

At the present time there are 23 troops in the Belton-Richards-Gebaur area comprised of Brownies, Junior, Cadette and Senior Troops. Activities are many and varied. Favors and gifts are made for the patients at three nursing homes in the area; parties are held at the Ozanam Boys Homes; toys and gifts made for the Red Cross and Children's Mercy Hospital; recycling and ecology projects have been held; parks cleaned in Belton and at Richards-Gebaur AFB. Each year a gift festival is held and gifts and toys made by each girl are given to needy persons, nursing homes, church nurseries, hospitals and children's homes in the area.

For the last two years day camp has been held at the Magelessen Farm south of Belton.

Perhaps the greatest single accomplishment by any troop in area was the project conceived by Senior Troop 138 in 1964. Cynthia Smoot Jones gave the property at the northwest corner of Chestnut and Second Streets to her niece Martha C. Smoot,



John Hart, Belton Fire Department and Centennial Parade chairman, presents American Red Cross first aid certificates to Scouts Barbara Westhoff, Donna Kenagy and Catharine Hotz.

with the understanding that one day she would turn it into a park. Because of health, Martha Smoot moved to Denver many years ago and the house slowly deteriorated. It was torn down in 1956. An agreement had been reached with Miss Smoot by Mayor William V. Powell in 1955 that the property be deeded to the City of Belton and a yearly fee paid to Miss Smoot as long as she lived. For ten years, four men in Belton saw to it that Miss Smoot received this fee.

Senior Troop 138 designed a park plan for this property and applied for a grant made by the Reader's Digest Foundation to Girl Scout troops to encourage community service among their members. The Belton troop was awarded one of 21 that were given nationally that year. The amount received was \$321.50 and the accompanying letter signed by Dewitt Wallace, president of the Reader's Digest Foundation said, in part "It is one chosen from among many applications on the basis of its originality and the scope of its benefit to the community." Assisting the troop prepare the award winning plan was Carroll E. Marshall, Belton nurseryman; Bob Wallace, Belton park board member and the Belton Garden Club. Mrs. Phyllis Sheaks was advisor to Troop 138 and Wilma Zellhoefer was chairman of the project. Other troop members were Terree Pace, Roseann Gerrity, Ruby Oliver, Pat Spiker and Patti Allbrook. During the next few years other members of the troop continued the work and Peace Park today is a lovely

area with trees, shrubs and benches, a fitting memorial to a woman who had a dream over 50 years ago and her niece who felt an obligation to fulfill it.

Present officers for Girl Scouting in the area include Mrs. William Tippit, association chairman and troop services for Richards-Gebaur AFB Troops; Mary Ann Giddings, Brownie troop services director, R-G AFB; Mrs. James Beggs, Brownie and Cadette troop services director, Belton, Mrs. Charles Foland, Junior troop services director, Belton; and Mrs. Harry Conditt, Senior troop services director.

Boy Scouts



So far as is known, Belton's first Boy Scout Troop was organized sometime in the thirties. Boy Scout Troop 210, sponsored by the Belton United Methodist Church is one of two troops active in Belton today. The other is Troop 111, started in April, 1968 and sponsored by the Lord of Love Lutheran church.

Each troop participates in a variety of activities each year. The highlight of the summer season for the troop is a ten-day trip to the H. Roe Bartle Reservation at Osceola, Mo. There they are eligible to join the tribe of Mic-O-Say, an organization founded by Bartle, the former mayor of Kansas City. It is based upon Indian lore and requires four consecutive years of advancement to attain the highest rank of Warrior. A record 34 boys were recommended for Mic-O-Say in 1969.

At least one camp-out is scheduled each month of the year and places of interest are visited. A recent one included a tour of the hydro-electric dam which is presently under construction at Stockton Lake, Mo.

During Belton's Centennial year, the troop is planning its most ambitious undertaking to date. Twenty boys and eight leaders are signed up to go on a week-long cause trip in the wilds of Canada.

Noble Winters, until he moved to Kansas City in late 1971, was scoutmaster for the troop for many years. Since his move, Don Bishop has taken the job of assistant scoutmaster and is in charge of camping activities. Others active in the troop are Keith Perkins, institutional representative; Gene Earhart, explorer post advisor; and Bill Sanders and Dale Reed, assistant scoutmasters. Troop committeemen are Charles Higman, Richard Norcross, Richard Dale, Harry Halbasch, Kenny White and George Thornton. They work in all phases of the Scout program. Boys in the troop who have attained the rank of Eagle Scout are Gerald Price, Fred Williams, David Williams, Stuart Grindstaff, Mickey Marshall, John Pace, Paul Pace, Kent Powell, Mike Ford, Wayne Winters, Mike Earhart, Arlo Gatchell, Alan Dale, Mike Boles, Mike Jones, Bill Sanders, Alan Jacobs, Kirk Perkins, Rick and Randy Norcross.

Troop membership has ranged from a high of 100 boys in 1968 to 40 in September 1971.

Troop 111 has sponsored paper drives and collected food, money and clothing for needy families. A book drive in March, 1971 was held for the benefit of the Belton Library.

The troop has also taken part in several conservation projects, cleaning up litter from roadways and parks.

A float trip on the Current River was taken over Memorial Day weekend in 1971 and they plan to return this year,

Rev. Thomas Barthelmeh is the troop chaplain. Several of the original committeemen for the troop were Russ Rettman, William Allen, Donald Crawford, Gene Grimes, Joe Willer and Allen Rogers, who is the present scoutmaster.

Belton Jaycees

The Belton Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce) was organized in Belton in March 1961. First officers were Jim Meador, president, Bill Bierman, first vice-president; Bert Hubbard, second vice-president; Howard Fenton, treasurer; John Burdick, secretary; Eugene Moen, state director and Ed Leonhart, Wiley Wyatt and Howard Hendricks were members of the Board of Directors.

Other early officers and members included Wayne Mucke, Vernon Mucke, Bruce Pressley, Bob Bricker, Dan Kelly, Ed Hartzler, Wayne Willey and Marty Mitchell.

Since its organization the club has been active in a number of civic projects, notably those baving to do with the betterment of Belton's park and play areas. At Memorial Park, they have built two shelters, done work on the entrance marker and donated furniture to Belton's swimming pool. At Lacy Park, on



land owned by St. Sabina's Catholic Church, the club for several years maintained and improved it. In addition, several miniparks in town were serviced by the club. They have named an "Outstanding Young Educator" at the Belton schools. Their "Project St. Nick" is looked forward to by youngsters during the Christmas season. The club also assists Plank Ford

agency supervise the local Punt, Pass, Kick competition held in the fall. Present officers are Gary Lathrop, president; Arnold Botwinik, external vice-president; Dr. Ned Witherspoon, internal vice-president; Larry Huber, director; Gary Horner, state director; Rex Covington, secretary and Bob Baird, treasurer.

Jaycee Wives

The Missouri Jaycee Wives were organized in 1954 at the Jaycees spring convention in Kenneth, Mo. The local club was formed in 1968 with the help of the Lee's Summit group. Esther Kihn, who did the foundation work in setting up the club was elected the first president. Joan Shields and Bonnie Tindall have also served as president.

The purpose of the club is to serve, aid and assist the Jaycees with any project they might undertake whenever called upon to do so; to promote the commercial, industrial and civic interests of Belton; to educate its members in leadership and to promote good citizenship.

The club holds many projects during the year to help raise money to support the group's charities. The main activity has been the Valentine Baby Sweepstakes held in February each year. Much of the money from this contest is used to maintain a dental care fund for the Belton school system. For two years a good portion of the money was turned over to the Belton Ambulance Fund.

Present officers are Georgianna Huber, president; Bonnie Adcock, vice-president; Kathy Horn, recording secretary; Carol Botwinik, corresponding secretary; Pat Jackson, treasurer and Joan Shields, social chairman.

Belton Merchants Association



Mary Gochnauer of Belton Home Laundry, and Vance Magee of Magee Tax Service are secretary and president respectively of the Belton Merchants Association. The group, active for the past decade or so, has done much to promote Belton's business community. Sponsors until this year of the annual "Unveiling Night" which officially opened Belton's Christmas season, and of the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Belton's Memorial Park, the group seeks to keep Belton's business community active in civic affairs and conducive to hometown patronage.

Belton Booster Club



The Belton Booster Club is one of Belton's newer organizations. It was started in early 1971 and its aim is to assist and support the activities of the Belton schools with financial and personal help as requested by school officials and student organizations; to promote attendance at all activities and to

be non-commercial, non-sectarian and non-partisan. It is a non-profit organization registered with the secretary of state of Missouri.

The original officers were Lew Raines, president; Bill Mosby, vice-president; Joan Kolesar, secretary and Don

Renken, treasurer.

At the end of its first year, the club had 225 members, Activities have been varied and many, from supplying judges for track meets, chaperoning various school trips to art and music contests; furnishing cold drinks for players at all home sporting events; a clean up day at the football field at which time bleachers were painted, a ticket booth was constructed, concrete bleachers were repaired and the practice

and main field was graded and seeded.

The club gave \$1500 for seven scholarships for 1971 seniors and in 1972, seven \$300 scholarships were awarded. The principal fund raising project was the sale of yellow safety jackets donated by the Frito-Lay company.

The group has sponsored an elementary school track meet for grades five through seven the past two years. Pictured are the winners of the first such meet in 1971.

Belton Baseball Association

The present Number One ballfield, first in the area, was erected complete with lights in late 1945 — early 1946. The first game was between Belton and Grandview. The Belton teams consisted mostly of returned World War II veterans. Local players were Leo Quick, Leo Mosby, Bolivar Lawrence, G. C. Coomes, Jr., Russell Feeback, Bill Mosby, Ed Pugh, Jim Reynolds, Francis Steinbrueck, Jack Miller, Bill Carter, Bud Letzig, Tom Keeney, Bob Campbell, Joe Weis, and Bud Idol. The manager was G. C. Coomes, Sr.

The team was dissolved after eight years, but was rated the top Semi-Pro team in the area. More men wished to play softball and in addition, youth baseball moved on the scene.

In 1954, boys softball organized for 9-12 years old; over 12 played American Legion baseball. Wallace Blair headed the program which was financed by the Belton Lion's Club and the Belton American Legion. Because of illness, Blair was forced to give up the program. A group of about 50 parents and baseball lovers held a meeting at Belton Senior High School in 1957 and formed the Belton Athletic Association. Leo Mosby was elected president; Bob Colmer, vice-president; Herman Griggs, secretary and Frank Blair, treasurer.

The first act of the board was to install youth baseball instead of softball. They built a new field for the 9-12 year old group. Only 12 teams participated the first year. The second year they organized 9-15 year olds and had a total of 20 teams.

Mrs. Dorothy Still and Leo Mosby organized the first Girls' Softball Leagues in 1958. Gene Higgins, Elsa Gatchel, Pauline Lynch, Lena White, and Lee Stark were early leaders in the program, The girls' program was the strongest in this area.

Richards-Gebaur AFB joined the program in 1961, and the executive board raised their total of men organizing the program to 15 including five from Richards-Gebaur AFB. The leagues grew to 41 teams, it was also the first time league commissioners were appointed.

Through the sixties, the program grew to nearly 57 teams. Two more fields were added and all fields completely fenced. There is a working agreement with the park board that

is unique in this area,

A mass change was made in the make-up of the offices on the executive board in 1970. Len Mosby presented a fourpoint program of reorganizing the board which would consist of a chairman of the board, chairman of finances, military liason officers, election of president, vice-president, secretary and the forming of membership club. The proposals were accepted. Leo Mosby was named chairman of the board: Frank Blair, chairman of finances; Capt. Hertzog, military Liason; Charles Holden, president; Charles Arnspiger, vicepresident, and Pat Simpson, secretary. Others members appointed to the board were: Sgt. Carl Gipson, Morris Rockwood, Robert Wallace, Denzil Jenkins, Mel Bass, Emil Aswegan, Chuck Wallace, Glenn Atkinson, Ardon Tindall, Charles Davis, Scott Davis, Sgt. John Schoffer and Mrs. Bonnie Tindall. Early in 1971 the organization lost one of its most ardent workers and organizers. Charles (Vic) Holden died of a heart attack following a visit to the ballfields. Since Holden was the main organizer of the Pony League, a memorial Pony League Most Valuable Player Award was started. Phil Sousley received the first annual award.

The first year in the national franchised organization of Boys Baseball Inc. was 1971. The tournament teams were highly successful the first year. Plans for 1972 are to place the entire program under the rules and regulation Boys Baseball Inc. Officers elected for 1972 were; Scott Davis, president; Charles Arnspiger, vice-president; Charlie Davis, secretary. The name of the organization has been changed to the Belton Baseball Assn. after the decision in 1971 by Richards-Gebaur AFB to form their own baseball leagues.

For the past several years, the Belton Baseball Mothers have been active. Their organization inaugurated the practice of awarding trophies to members of first place teams. Through the years a number of fund raising projects have been employed. The last three years the group has sponsored publication of the season schedule book. Approximately 250 trophies are awarded by the group each year. Present officers are Eva Bass, president; Floy Conditt, vice-president; Betsy Ewing, secretary and Lois Simpson, treasurer.





Belton Baseball Association representative teams, circa 1971

Our Men in Service



During the war years, these sentinels stood in City Hall Park, keeping a record of local men in service. A close-up is shown below-

Belton has always been well represented in the various branches of the armed services. As far as is known, a total of 12 Beltonites have lost their lives in the performance of their duty; two in World War I, eight in World War II and two in the present conflict in Vietnam.

The honor roll of Belton servicemen on the following pages is as complete a list as has been possible to compile. There are undoubtedly others. That their name does not appear here does not diminish in the least, Belton's pride and gratitude to all its sons who have served their country.

During World War II, letters from men overseas were published regularly in the newspaper and reports of their activities were reported almost weekly.

Oct. 16, 1940 was set nationally for the registration of all men between the ages of 21 to 35 years old for the military draft. The period of service was to be one year. Some 170 men from the Belton-Mt. Pleasant area signed up.

Cass County's first commissioned naval officer was Ensign Leroy Dodson, and Sherman Crawford in 1941 was Belton's first to serve in the Army under the new service act. With an early call number, Crawford volunteered his service for one year.

Belton's first casualties of World War II were Leo Mosby and Roger Hoback in the closing months of 1943. Both were Marines stationed in the Pacific and it was presumed they were wounded at Tarawa Island where the Marines had suffered heavy casualties. With less than 10,000 men engaged in action, over 5,000 men were wounded or killed. Mosby was returned to a Naval hospital in Hawaii and Hoback to a Base hospital.

During 1944 two Belton men lost their lives, Sgt. George Crawford and Pfc. Jerry Webber. During that year too, Lt. Fred Campbell and Sgt. Robert Miller were both reported missing in action, Campbell became a prisoner of war and Miller rejoined his outfit, Pvt. Ray Lawrence was also reported missing in action but later rejoined his outfit.

W. B. Huggins was reported missing for three years until his body was recovered in Germany.

Five Belton men died in 1945. Dean Olson, Army; S 1/c Eddie Hasenyager, Na'y; Lt. Vernon Norris, Air Corps; Pfc. Charles D. Coombs, Army and Lt. Glen Jones, Air Corps. During that year, word was received by Betty Keeney that husband, Tom, was in a prisoner of war camp after his plane had been forced down behind enemy lines.

During World War I, two men died, James Norris and Pvt. Fred Keeney.

Darrel Aspey and Carl Hudgins have been Belton casualties during the current Vietnam conflict.



These Paid The Supreme Sacrifice





George Crawford







Glenn Jones





Charles Combs



Dean Olson



Darrell Aspey



Carl Hudgins

FRED KEENEY

According to Claude Keeney, of Deepwater, Mo., Fred Franklin Keeney, a member of the 356th infantry, 89th Div., was the youngest son of Richard and Lou Anna Keeney. Word had not yet been received by his commander that the Armistice had been signed and the "over-the-top" order was issued. Keeney met his death then Ironically enough, another Belton man, Scott Wilson, was his commaning officer. Keeney is buried in the Belton Cemetery.

JAMES DANIEL NORRIS

James Daniel Norris was born in St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 18, 1895 and moved with his family to Belton in 1915. He enlisted in the Army in the spring of 1917 and was a member of Company C, 23rd Infantry, Second Division, which went overseas in August, 1917. He was seriously wounded June 18, 1918, was hospitalized and returned to the front. He was killed in action, Oct. 8, 1918.

He was one of a family of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Green Norris. His body was returned to Belton and the Keeney-Norris American Legion Post #238, held a fineral service on Sunday, Nov. 6, 1921 at the Belton Cemetery where he was buried.

GEORGE CRAWFORD

Sgt. George Crawford, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Crawford, was born Nov. 3, 1917. He entered the Army, Oct. 22, 1941 and after 13 weeks basic tratning, left San Francisco, Calif. in March, 1942. He arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in May. He left there in May, 1944 and landed on the island of Saipan, June 16. Four days later he was killed. Memorial services were held Aug. 20, 1944. His body was returned on the transport Albert M. Boe in May, 1948 along with 1,940 others; 68 from Missouri and Kansas, He was buried in the Belton Cemetery after funeral services June 5, 1948.

EDDIE HASENYAGER

Seaman First Class Eddie Hasenyager was killed in action in the Pacific in 1945. He was a member of a destroyer crew and for security reasons at the time of his death no other details were available. No other information has been obtained for inclusion in this book.

GLENN JONES

First Lieutenant Glenn W. Jones entered the Air Corps in December, 1942. After attending Officers Training School, he was commissioned in 1944. He was the first pilot of a B-24 bomber and was assigned to the 15th Air Corps based in Italy. He was sent overseas Aug. 15, 1944 and was on his 24th mission when he was killed over Italy, March 8, 1945. His family received word that he died in an effort to save his crew. At least three did escape death. His body was returned to Belton in December, 1948 and he was buried in the Belton Cemetery.

JERRY WEBBER

Pfc. Jerry Vincent Webber was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald P. Weber. He was born in Kansas City, Nov. 19, 1914, moved to Grandview in 1924 and he completed his education there. The family moved to Belton in 1934. Webber was inducted into the Army in February, 1942 and was sent overseas to England in April, 1944. Six days after D-Day, he was moved to the front lines of battle in France and was killed in action by enemy fire on July 25.

VERNON NORRIS

Lt. Vernon A. Norris moved to Belton in 1939 and graduated from Belton High School in 1940. His father was city marshal of Belton. He was a member of the crew of a B-25 Mitchell bomber which went down in Ormac Bay, Leyte Island in the Phillippines, Nov. 11, 1944. He was the nephew of James Daniel Norris who was killed in action in World War I.

WILLARD B. HUGGINS

Lt. Willard Browning (Dub) Huggins was a native of Belton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard B. Huggins of 608 Third St. He was born March 26, 1920 and enlisted in the Army, Jan. 2, 1942. While stationed at a then secret base on Ascension Island, he was accepted as an Aviation Cadet, and returned to the United States for schooling and preflight training. He received his commission and wings at Marfa Army Air Field, Marfa, Texas.

He arrived in England, Feb. 20, 1945 and was assigned to the 550 Bomb Sqdn., 385 Bomb Group in the Eighth Air Force where he served as a co-pilot on a B-17 flying fortress bomber. On his eighth boming mission, his aircraft was rammed by enemy aircraft and dropped from formation 35 miles northeast of Hannover, Germany on April 7, 1945.

The graves of the man were later located in Germany and removed to Belgium. Lt. Huggins' body was later returned home for internment in the Belton Cemetery after Memorial services were held, June 5, 1949.

DEAN OLSON

L. Dean Olson was the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Olson, Grandview. After the death of his mother, he lived with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olson. He attended Belton High School, graduating in 1941 as valedictorian of his class. He attended Central College at Fayette, Mo. for two years and was appointed by Sen. Harry S. Truman to West Point Military Academy. He went to Cornell University in February, 1943 to prepare for entrance exams, but was turned down because of a slight hearing deficiency. He went overseas in March, 1945, to serve in the Infantry Supply Depot, 658th Replacement Co., and died on Leyte Island, July 29, 1945.

CHARLES COMBS

Pfc, Charles D. (Chuck) Coombs was born Dec. 13,1926 in Olathe, Kans. His family moved to Belton in 1936 and he attended Belton schools until 1942. In mid-1943, he and his father moved to Livingston, Mont., where Charles enlisted in the Marine Corps, Dec. 14, 1943. He was assigned to the Fifth Marine Div., and was sent overseas in Aug. 1944. After further training in Hawaii, he participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima and was killed in February, 1945. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Asiatic Campaign and Victory Medals and the Presidential Unit Citation.

DARRELL ASPEY

Darrell Wayne Aspey was born Nov. 26, 1946 at Bolivar, Mo., and attended Raymore and Grandview schools until he moved to Belton in 1957. He married Peggy Jean Yavarian on Oct. 3, 1964 and for the next three years he was a service manager for Clark's Floor Machine Co. A daughter, Angela, was born in 1965 and a son, Douglas Wayne in 1969.

He volunteered for the Army in April, 1969, and after training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., he was assigned to the First Training Brigade Armor at Fort Knox, Ky. After a leave in Belton in Sept. 1969, he was sent to Vietnam as a member of D Troop, 17th Cavalry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade stationed in Bien Hoa.

His platoon was ambushed by a large enemy force in Feb. 1970. According to his troop commander, Aspey was filling the dual role of manning his own weapon and providing ammunition for his track commander. While securing additional ammunition, he was critically wounded by fragments of a rocket-propelled grenade which struck his vehicle under heavy fire. He died while aboard an evacuation helicopter enroute to a hospital in Long Binh. Funeral services were held in Belton on March 7, 1970 and he was buried in the National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and seven other medals.

CARL HUDGINS

Photographer Second Carl William (Buddy) Hudgins, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl William Hudgins, Sr., was born in San Francisco in 1944 and moved to Belton in 1961. He was a 1962 graduate of Belton High School and attended William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., for three and one-half years.

He joined the Navy in 1966 and received his training at the Naval Air Station, Olathe, Kans. Hen then attended photography school at Newport, R. I.

He was sent to Vietnam in July, 1968 and was killed June 8, 1969 at Da Nang, when the jeep he was riding in hit a mine.

Funeral services were held at the Belton Baptist Church and he was buried in the Belton Cemetery.



Belton's American Legion Post held Memorial Services after both World War I and World War II. Picture above was taken at services for James Daniel Norris on Nov. 6, 1921 - picture below was at services for George Crawford on June 5, 1948. Note white, horse drawn hearse in top picture, used at that time by E. K. George & Sons.



The second second second

Ashlock, Don D. Sr., USAF AuClair, Richard F., USAF Bailey, Irving J., Army Baker, Ray, Army Baker, Vernoo, USAF Bankston, James H., Army Barnett, Grayson H., Army Barr, Earl, Navy Barr, Richard E., Army Bartimus, James L., USAF Bartimus, James R., Navy Beeghly, Ted R., Army Bell, Basil L., Army Bell, Richard, USAF Benham, Burl D., Navy Bertoluio, Clement, USAF Blair, Jim, USAF Blair, Wallace, Army Bogar, Donald, Army Bowe, Richard J., Army Bowe, William E., Navy Bower, Paul D. USAF Bridgforth, James W. Army Brown, Loren T., Army Buck, Willard, USAF Burroughs, James D. USAF Bush, Frederick, USAF Bush, Sam P., Army Bush, Steven, USAF Calvin, Dr. Harold E., USAF Chevalier, C. J., Army Christoffell, M. B., Army Clark, Paul, Navy Clear, Harold G., Army Cochran, James W., USMC Colaw, Richard USMC Coleman, Kohl I. Army Coomes, Gwynne C., Jr., USAF Cooper, Ronald D., Army Crosby, James A., USMC Crosby, Mary B., USMC Crouch, Elmer J. B., Army Crouch, Paul B., USAF Cunningham, James L., Navy Dale, Glenn B., Sr., USAF Derry, Woodrow J., USAF Diamond, Ernest F., Army Diamond, Raymond, Army Diamond, R. A. (Bob) Army Dunkin Sidney, Army Dunlap, Richard L., Army Farhart, Harold E., USMC Eblen, David S., USAF Eblen, D. George, Navy Elkins, Charles, Army

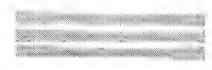
HONOR ROLL

Feeback, E. J., Army KIA Feeback, Russell, Army Flatt, Milton, USAF Floyd, Glen M., USAF Foote, Lloyd A., Army Fnote, Richard W., Navy Frank, Brian D., USMC Gatchel, Arlo V., Jr., USAF George, Richard I., Army Glasor, Fennis, Army Groh, Walter A., Army Gore, Francis, USAF Gurley, Joe C., Navy Guss, Robert J., Army Gustelius, Greg A., USMC Hall, C. D., Navy Halbasch, Harry L., Jr. USAF Hamilton, David A., USAF Handley, Gary L., Navy Hanson, Paul W., Navy Harris, L. W., Army Harris, Ronald W., Army Hart, John D., USAF Headley, Melvin E., Army Herrick, Verne A., Army Higgins, Terrel D., Army Higgins, J. T., Army Higgins, Eugene, Army Hoppen, Kenneth E., Army Hubach, Wesley Don, USAF Hopper, Harold, Army Huff, Richard L., Army Huffman, William C., Navy Huffman, William Charles, Navy Hutson, Harold, Army Idol, Jay D., Navy Idol, Roy B., USMC Jackson, Charles R., Navy Jackson, Jerry, Army Jackson, J. Weldon, Navy Jakeman, R. K. Army Jenkins, Denzel, USAF Jones, Henry, Navy Jones, Glenn W., USAF Jones, J. L. (Jake), Jr., Army Jones, Stephen R., Navy Judd, William L., Jr., Army Jursen, George, Army Keaton, David, USMC Keaton, Clinton, USAF Keeney, Thomas H., USAF Kelly, Carl R., Navy Kelly, Dennis M., Navy Kerr, Charles, Army Kidney, Joe, USAF Kilgore, James, Army Klopotek, Richard, USAF Knebel, Harold, USAF

Lacy, Louis, Sr., Army Lacy, L. Edward, Jr., Army Lamar, Baker, Army Lane, Barker, Army Langhlin, Parke E., USAF Law, George H., USAF Law, Lloyd, Army Lewis, Walter A., USMC Looney, Jack, Army Looney, Joe Bill, Army Lutz, Giles A., Signal Corps McCoy, Robert E., USAF McKinley, Elmer N., Navy McNay, Joseph, USAF McNay, Richard J., Army Manor, Clifford E., Army Marler, Robert E. USAF Marler, Mike, Navv Marsh, Paul H., Navy Marsh, Phillip M., Navy Martz, Steve, Navy Maurer, Joseph J., Navy Meador, Herbert I., Navy Meador, Robert B., Army Meador, Robert W., Navy Mellinger, John R., USAF Miller, Edward, Army Moles, Manford, Army Montgomery, Dr. E. L., Med. Montgomery, Tim, Army Montgomery, Tory, WAC Morgan, Warren A., Navy Morris, Edward O., Navy Morris, Lawrence E., USAF Mosby, Frank A., USAF Mosby, Jimmie Joe, USMC Mosby, Leo, USMC Mosby, LeRoy, Army Mosby, Robert D., Army Mosby, William J., USMC Nielsen, Barbara, WAF Norman, Richard E., Army Ogden, Boyd, USAF Peek, Vernon L., Navy Pennington, C. E., Navy Perkins, Keith B., Army Perme, Paul R., USAF Person, Richard L., Army Phalen, M. Dale, Navy Phillips, Charles E., Army Phillips, Charles H., USAF Phillips, Fred L., Navy Peirson, Rick, Navy Pitts, Romulus M., Army Powell, Robert V., USAF Powell, William V., Navy Pugh, Edwin, Army Pullen, Charles E., USMC

Rebo, Roger C., Army Reynolds, Clarence B. (Jack), Army Roberts, George A. (Bud), Army Robles, Ruben C., Army Rogers, Charles A., USAF Rogers, Francis T., USMC Rogers, Joseph Army Rogers, Laurence E., Navy Rogers, Patrick II., Navy Roper, Richard L., USAF Rotert, Cletus, Army Roth, Richard J., USAF Ruble, William Jr., Navy Rutledge, James G., Army Ryden, Donald A., USAF Sanders, William A., Army Saultz, Chester, Army Schlesselman, Robert C., Army Scott, Gary Ray, Navy Sears, Karl, Army Sessions, Rondal L., USAF Shafer, Raymond E., USAF Sharp, Joseph L., USMC Shoemaker, Charles C., Navy Sidener, George C., Army Smith, Arthur D., Sr., Army Smith, Roy R., Army Spear, George, Navy Steinbrueck, F. G., Navy Stark, Robert Lee, Navy Stewart, Michael W., USMC Stidham, Owen L., USAF Storer, Charles R., Army Strodtman, Bill, Navy Summers, Tom, USAF Summers, Charles (Chuck), USAF Swaggart, James B., Navy Thompson, Richard B., Army Turner, Larry, Army Twente, Milton H. Jr., USAF Van Brunt, John Jr., Army Wagner, Gene, Navy Wall, Clifford E., Army Watts, Walter Lee III, USAF Weber, Eugene C., USAF Weber, Patrick S., USAF Weeks, Michael, Navy Weeks, Wayne, USAF Westhoff, Norman, Navy Whalen, A. I. USAF Whalen, Mrs. A. L. USAF White, Clifford P., USAF Wilhite, E. S., USAF Wilson, Scott, Army Woods, Gerald, Army Woods, Gerald F., USAF Woodward, Billy J., Army

Woodward, Robert, Army



Krajnik, A. C., USAF



Our Schools

By Audys Duvall

AT TOWN

Threads

I opened the yellow, brittle pages Of this old school record book ---And there, between 1896 and 1897 Was a three-inch woolen thread From an old loosely-woven coat. A kind of brown and tan tweed coat it had been. I stared in awe and contemplation. And I wondered ---Where had the coat been worn that day As it protected a man who was Important enough, In this small town, To be on the School Board? How long had the coat been worn That the thread loosened and Dropped out of his sleeve On this particular night, As he wrote in this book? Did it also protect him As he went to a seat On the City Council. Did it look up to a beard ---The hallmark of a man of distinction? Did he sit with his hat on? Never a cap, to shade his eyes. As he wrote in the book, "How is this?" When a child had been promoted From grade five to grade seven. Oh, what meticulous care Was exercised through the years, As men gave of their time and concern To see that Belton school Raveled not out, As the coat had done! --- Audys Duvall

OATH OF DIRECTOR

No. TOTAL

Sworn and subscribed to before me this.

day of gray

19.5%

NOTE:—It is not sufficient in administering the oath of office to a newly elected director that it be done orally. The oath should be written or printed in the form given in this section, and signed by the person or persons to whom the same is being administered. It should also bear the signature of the person administering the same, under the proper date thereof. While this section provides that the oath may be administered by the members of the board, this does not preclude the idea that it may also be taken before any officer authorized to administer an oath. (R. S. 1938, Section 9288.)

FOR BALE BY G. W. WOODFORD, CARTHAGE MO

DIRECTORS

Every man who takes this oath means it and, so help him, he intends to keep it. Space limitations prevent our listing all board members who have served through our "proud past", but they were always men of distinction who met handsomely the challenges and responsibilities of building solidly for the needs of today's children and for those of tomorrow's "bright future." Their foresight is unbelievable and they made few misjudgments, and moved forcefully to rectify those when identified. They were aware of their own limitations and knew when and where to seek legal or professional advice.

As far as feasible they patronized Belton business men. They pulled tight the taxpayer's purse strings when this did not interfere with quality education or common justice. Examples: April 4, 1896, the board voted that "the account of G. W. Reynolds be allowed with the reduction of fifty cents for breaking a glass in setting." The bill was two dollars; the amount allowed, one dollar and fifty cents. When Professor Dumm's salary was one hundred and thirty-three and one-third dollars per month in 1912, the boardallowed one hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-four cents one month and then one hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents

the next two months to make it come out even.

They were products of their own times, reflecting both responsibility and fairness. They could be strict as when making rules for collecting tuition—"No teacher shall admit a non-resident pupil without a receipt from the clerk showing tuition paid in advance." In 1903, the teachers were informed the board expected them to enforce this rule or they would be held responsible if the tuition were not paid. They could be understanding as in 1937, when they voted to employ men who owed tuition to dig and fill a ditch for relaying a gas line. They could be strict or lenient, depending on circumstances, in dealing with teachers, too. Miss Sallie Harrelson was informed, upon her resignation in 1904, before the end of the term, that "The board expects you to teach out the term as per contract." But the next year they released Miss Edna Barron from the fourth room on account of her father's illness.

Strict they were in discipline also —always hearing parents, pupil, principal and teachers in cases of possible expulsion. They wanted the whole story and they acted in ways that seemed to support the schools and yet were not discriminating against

the pupil, as when they decided that some high school boys who had damaged school property could address a called assembly of students "to discuss why we should care for our school, not only for our own good but for the benefit of children who would come along later," instead of having their

parents pay the twenty-five dollars damages.

Prices and salaries have been adjusted to the times as have levies and budgets, and assessed valuation. In 1895 teachers' salaries ranged from thirty dollars to eighty dollars, the janitor, Earl Ferrell, received ten dollars per month except in the colored school where the teacher did the janitor work for an additional one dollar and fifty cents per month. The election officials received one dollar and twenty-five cents for their day's work. However, the next year the judges and clerks received only one dollar per day and that was not raised until 1911 when the pay was one dollar and tifty cents.

The board has kept a tight rein on the use of school buildings and grounds, sometimes leaving it up to the voters as to letting the grounds for Chatauquas (the voters always said yes), sometimes charging fees for subscription schools and dancing classes. Fees were charged also for the use of buildings for such things as dinners and outside ball games.

Early boards adopted the texts, but at the suggestion or the principal. In the late 90's the board adopted Milne's Algebra and Myers' History. In the early part of this century one board member was given the task of comparing and evaluating and recommending for adoption the reading texts of

several companies.

Board members have been delegated many tasks as members of committees — such as purchasing committee and a committee on the use of school building and grounds. Periodically they reported their progress to the board. Then there have been the short term committees — the committee to sell the boards from the old board walk, a committee to see that the fence posts were cut and stored in the basement, the one to see to the removing of pipe from the wall in front of the three-story building. These ad hoc committees have functioned, reported, and been discharged — always meeting their assigned responsibilities.

There has been but one woman board member - Mrs. Marty Fleetwood, who resigned in June, 1971,



School board members in the thirties were (1 to r) Bub Holloway, J. L. Campbell, Dr. Russel McKee, Roy Meador, J. L. Phillips, G. J. Smith, superintendent; and Earl Nethaway.

Apparently the board has always consisted of six members. The first board was elected in 1875 and consisted of these members: J. S. Torbert, J. V. Robinson, Benjamin Barr, W. K. Clifford, L. M. Trumbull and G. W. Scott.

The board in 1894 was: T. T. Garnett, Walter Boles, B. F. Hargis, F. G. Robinson, James H. White and J. B. Harrelson,

In 1904 the following served: George Moseley, James II. White, John Berry, Thomas Berry, Charles Sprinkle and J. F. Blair, C. O. Campbell was secretary.

The present board is: George Stone, president; Kenneth McCully, vice-president, Jack McCirtney, Roger Maier, Pat Simpson and George Elkins, Mrs. Joyce Halley is treasurer and Mrs. Jean Boston, secretary.

There was much interest in the election this year (1972) with seven candidates for the two positions open. Pat Simpson was an easy winner, but George Elkins and Loren Brown field for the other seat. Finally it was decided that the board could appoint one of them and Elkins won a 3-2 decision. This appointment is for just one year.

Let there be no doubt as to who is responsible for the quality of the Belton Public Schools - the board whom you elected, and what can be more democratic than that?

AFRICAN SCHOOL

In its early history, Belton had a number of black citizens located in the south part of old Belton where they had their own church and school, located about a block apart. The school was a one-room building on the three-cornered area (northeast corner) of Scott and Fifth streets, it was always referred to as the "colored school", although on the 1895 plat of Belton it is designated "African School."

Before the end of the century it was evident that the school was in trouble because of decreased enrollment. From the School Board minutes of July 16, 1897: "It was moved and seconded that whereas the state superintendent has informed us we have no power to maintain a colored school under the present enumeration, it showing only eleven col'd school children in the district, we declare the col'd school closed for one year."

The Board, as always, showed proper concern for its actions and on August 6, that year, "appointed the clerk to write facts concerning enumeration of col'd children to the state superintendent of public schools and ascertain the proper procedure to correct the same if an error has been made."

That same summer the clerk was instructed to write to Miss Caren Davis, informing her that the board had decided to maintain the col'd school on a cheaper plan and that they have rescinded the election of the col'd teacher, Miss Davis,"

Miss Mamie Walker was employed as teacher in May 1898, but apparently she didn't teach the school, as on July 7, 1898, the board contracted with A. G. Jackson for \$25 per month. The next spring the board had the building painted one coat on the outside. It was in January, 1904, that H. M. Herron's janitor's salary reached that of the colored teacher, Frances B. Landers. Each of them was paid \$25 per month, plus \$1.50 extra to Miss Landers for janitor work.

Dwindling enrollment continued to plague the school and in May, 1906, the clerk was asked "to check with the state superintendent, W. Harrington, to see if they can give the col'd school six months, as their enumeration is below 15."

It was decided in July the col'd school would be opened for three months, on account of enumeration being insufficient. In December the board decided to continue the school for three months and to make a new contract with the teacher. The fourth month showed an average daily attendance of only five and the school was discontinued for six months.

The board decided on three months for the col'd school, more if satisfactory to the board in August, 1908. In November they decided on two months more. Miss Ida Rutledge was employed to teach for three months in 1909 and she asked for a continuation of the term and was granted one month more. Her salary was \$25 per month.

At the chose of this term, the board voted unanimously to close the school.

The colored school grounds and the east 50 feet (including the buildings) of the Kennison property were sold to Kathryn Grisham for \$250 on April 16, 1929.

A TEACHER COMMENTS Sex Age G 14 B Has no mind for anything but BOYS! 14 G Dropped on account of removal. Comment 13 An excellent pupil if she were not in LOVE and Boy Crazy. G 15 An excellent pupil it she were not in LOVE and boy of Dropped on account of removal. Lazy and Boy struck. B 14 G 14 G Poor worker on account of the "Boy Craze." 12 G Good pupil. 13 Good pupil. 13 G Good pupil. 15 B Poor worker. Lazy 15 B Took a position of Telegrapher. 14 B A good pupil. 15 G Retained on account of lack of capacity. (Buy One.) 14 B Name very appropriate. 13 B Left to attend Professor Keeney's High, 13 G A good pupil if watched. 15 G A good pupil. 13 G A good pupil. 13 B A good pupil if not close to a boy. 14 G Good, if driven to it. 13 B An EXCELLENT pupil. 14 Retained. Not in at the last, Went fishing and swallowed by a whale I suppose. G 14 G 14 B A good pupil. 14 G On trial. Been two years in 7th. 16 G Tongue too long. 14 GA good pupil. 12 A good pupil. 11 B A good pupil but "Fox-y." B On Trial. 16 B Retained. No EARTHLY good! Should be in heaven? 14 G An excellent pupil. 13 G An excellent pupil. 13 On condition that arithmetic is made up. 13 BAn excellent pupil. 13 G A good pupil if kept down 15 G Moved away. 15 Left because had to study. 17 G Left because had to study. 12 B An excellent pupil, but she knows too much. 16 B Not mentally capable. 13 G Plenty of brains but clouded with cigarette smoke. 15 G On condition that she makes up three months work. 15 G Physically weak. 14 G An excellent pupil when she chooses to work. 14 Good, Very "heady" and feelings easily injured. 15 Excellent. A Plodder. 14 G Stopped to get married. Finished the course in matrimony. 15 G Good if you make her work. 13 G Excellent worker. 14 B On condition that she make up arithmetic. 15 B A weak pupil mentally. 15 B Stopped to go to work. 15 Would be a good pupil but has been neglected, so he is behind.

In the early days, teachers evaluated their students at the end of the school year in this manner. This was a group of seventh and eighth graders in the early 1900s.

EPIDEMICS

Before the days of preventive vaccine medicines, the schools were affected several times by various types of epidemics, which caused the closing of school.

An epidemic of measles in February, 1899 resulted in a mutual agreement by the Board of Education and the teachers that the school be closed from February 15 until March 6.

Board minutes for Friday, Feb. 15, 1907 read, "on account of diphtheria in our schools, with the consent of the teachers the school was closed until Monday, February 25, the time to be made up at the close of school.

Diphtheria in November, 1914 also caused the dismissal of school for one week. The school board asked the management of the picture show to use his influence to have the show discontinued. The school building was to be fumigated under the direction of Dr. Fair. Doctors Fair, Miller and Moad were asked to be present when school resumed and to inspect all pupils for

symptoms. No pupil could enter without showing a certificate of good health. The building was fumigated during Christmas holidays that year.

Contagious diseases in December, 1917 closed the school until the \$1st, and board minutes for Oct. 8, 1918 show that Doctors Miller, Moad and Henderson agreed a disease was highly contagious and ordered the school closed until October 21. This was undoubtedly the flu epidemic of 1918 which Kathleen Barnes noted was over in time to properly celebrate the Armistice Day festivities in November of 1918.

A scarlet fever epidemic in March, 1924 caused a one-week closing of the schools and the building was fumigated. Scarlet fever was the culprit again in 1935 when the schools closed three days earlier for the Christmas holidays. The teachers would make up the days and books were replaced which were used by children having scarlet fever.



This eighth grade graduation class was prior to 1910. Shown (1 to r) are Gnell Morris, Blanche Mondell, Nancy Reid, Kitty Wells, Tom Beery, Jim Hawthorne, Susan Wilson, Jim Hawthorne, Myrtle Smith, Faye Arnold, Gladys Belcher, Phil Kreigh, Mamie West, Euel B. Young, John Cope, Nellie Barr and Nell McManus.

TRANSPORTATION

The school board called a special election in October, 1921, to authorize them to provide transportation to all pupils living one-half mile or more from school. In December of that year, Joe White was employed, at \$75 per month, to transport the pupils from Swampy School, two and one-half miles south of Belton on Y Highway. In August the following year, notices were placed in the Belton Star and the Belton Herald, inviting bids for transportation of the Swampy pupils. For the next few years Artie Crouch (Elmer's brother) and Merl Hundley owned and operated the bus out on Y Highway for three and one-half miles. In 1925, Merl Hundley would be re-employed if he would get a new body for the bus and would operate it personally. The board accepted his bid of \$900 for nine months for 1926-27.

Haskell Reynolds began furnishing transportation at the same salary in September, 1927. The next year he reported his bus very crowded and in 1929 he offered to furnish a 40-pupil bus for \$125 per month. The next owner was C. B. (Jack) Reynolds, Haskell's brother, who began with one bus in 1937. G. C. Coomes was Jack's other driver when he bought two new steel busses (as required by the state) in 1940.

Transportation contracts were given to Mrs. Harry Olson, Mrs. Earl Miller, and Gus Nordstrom in 1938. Mrs. Olson brought children from out south of town, Mrs. Miller from three-quarters of a mile west on Holmes, and Nordstrom from Jaudon. Mrs. J. W. McKinley took Nordstrom's route when be moved away. They were paid the amount the state allowed for transportation. In 1941, Mrs. Miller was paid \$3 per pupil per month and Mrs. McKinley \$45 per month if six or more pupils were on her route.

The school board asked Reynolds to put on the third bus in 1951 if High Blue would pay half of the additional \$40 per month. The fourth bus was added in 1955, and the next year Reynolds was given his first two-year contract with the board. Reynolds was "Mr. School Bus" for most of Belton schools' transportation days — taking the children not only to school, but to ball games, field trips, the band to the American Royal — wherever and whenever desired.

He added buses and miles to his routes until he sold the business, with a fleet of 25 buses, to R. W. Harmon and Sons in October, 1970. Under the legal name School Transportation. Inc., they presently operate fifteen buses (plus a spare). This is a decline over last year's fleet of 23 (plus two spares) due to the split shifts in our high school, allowing for double runs.

The 1972-73 school year will be similar to this year in the number of buses, because at least one more year of split shift scheduling is anticipated.

ANNEXATIONS

Through the years, six rural school districts have been annexed into the Belton system. The first of these was in April 1912, when Belton patrons voted 105-4 to accept Baldwin school district 125. This school was on the George W. Scott property and was located on the northwest corner of Markey and Scott.

Swampy school district 123, located two and three-quarters miles south of Belton, close to the arm of the Grand River and across on the east side of the road from what is now Brook Hollow Farm, was accepted on June 19, 1921. The site of the school had originally been about three-quarters of a mile north of that location. On April 5, 1961, Belton gave a quit-claim deed to the old school, legally returning the property to the Brown brothers, the original owners.

When the first talk of annexing High Blue School District 126 began in the spring of 1920, the Belton school board decided to walt until Belton voters decided to provide transportation of pupils in the remote section of the district before they accepted the district. High Blue was located west of Belton on 58 Highway,

Nothing further was done until May 5, 1953 when Mr. Davis, president of the High Blue board appeared before Belton's board with minutes of the High Blue annexation. He did not have the certification from Mrs. Jesse Mosby, clerk of the High Blue election. Superintendent Simpson confered with the law firm of Crouch and Crouch and on the basis of their report, the Belton board voted 5-1 to accept High Blue. They requested Mrs. Mosby to give Simpson the key to the building and to sign the warrant for the District funds. There was uncertainty concerning the title to the building and the grounds. The farm had been sold in the meantime by Jack Merriman to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Dunlap and they, not wishing to contest the claim of the Belton Board to the property, paid District 124 \$2,000 for the school building and grounds.

When Pleasant Prairie District 120 voted to annex to Belton, May 5, 1957, the County Board held a vote involving annexation of this school on June 12. Belton annexed the unorganized part of District 120 in September, 1957, at the same

A VIEW OF
SWAMPY SCHOOL
ONE OF THE FIRST
RURAL SCHOOLS
ANNEXED BY BELTON





High Blue Students about 1935. Shown front row (1 to r) are Gerald Hook, Leo Mosby, Frank Turner, Glen Smith, John Reeder and Robert Walton. Middle row, Dorothy McKinley, Margaret Turner, Bonnie Hart, Fay Mosby, Mary Jane Reeder, Mildred Walton, Myrtle Porter and Kenneth Groh. Top row, Margie McKinley, Earl Miller, Jr., Hattie Porter, Hazel Endicott, teacher Helen McGill; Norine Brown, Ben Herr, Betty Hart and Henrietta Gray.

time voting that Belton would not pick up any children living in that part of the district annexed by Peculiar. Peculiar advertised Pleasant Prairie school house for sale in June, 1958. Judge William Kimberlin gave a temporary court order to hold up the same. Belton took out \$1,000 insurance to protect the district's interest in the property. D. George Eblen, attorney, in September that year advised Belton to give three-fifths of Mt. Pleasant funds to Mr. Schubert, township collector to transfer to Peculiar. The school board minutes for Nov. 12, 1958 has the following entry: "Pleasant Prairie building sold for \$1,500. Where is our two-fifths of the proceeds?"

Mt. Pleasant District 122 which had already voted annexation was annexed by Belton on Aug. 13, 1958. There was some talk in District 122 of keeping the school house for a community building. Dr. C. F. Yeokum called a meeting for discussion of this proposal but no one attended the meeting so the school was advertised for sale. The board voted to gather

up the school's obsolete equipment and auction it at the same time the building was put up for sale. Rommie Pitts was the auctioneer for the sale which was held Nov. 15. The board and Eblen drew up papers to sell the building and site to Leo and Mabel Aldrige for \$5,200, the board to furnish the warranty deed. The school was located on Holmes Road, about two and one-half miles south of Snead's Barbecue.

The last annexation (1961) was that of Pleasant Valley District 121, located about six miles south of Snead's corner just off Holmes Road. The house and site were purchased at auction for \$3,000 by Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Willey, Sr., parents of Belton's present mayor.

A group calling themselves the Bi-Partisan Citizens Committee for Better Schools came from Raymore to the Belton board on Nov. 25, 1958, asking the Raymore school be annexed by Belton. While Belton considered how to handle this additional 187 children, Raymore held an annexation vote which did not carry.

BUILDINGS



When completed in 1922 this building (present Walnut St. building) was considered the finest in Cass County.

As settlers pushed into new territory and built homes, they soon established churches and schools. Belton was no exception. No authentic school records prior to 1896 are available in the school vault where such records are kept. However, talks with older people who can remember hearing the stories, have been relied upon and these sometimes differ in respect to details:

The first school house was located at Cedar and Second street and was built in 1878. In 1881, an addition was made at a cost of \$1,000. This brought the building up to four-room size at a total cost of \$1,700. The building was moved up town, between Main street and the railroad right-of-way, back of where the animal hospital and Belton laundry are now. When

it was no longer in use as a school it was used as a storage place for grain, oats being stored upstairs. Benjamin F. Hargis ran the place and Mr. Berry, Mrs. Trotter's father, was his bookkeeper. Mr. Monroe, father of Leta M. Corley, was another early manager of this grain business. This building was later destroyed by fire.

George Scott gave land at Walnut and Scott in order to obtain a new school. This was a two-story brick building consisting of six rooms and a hallway which was later converted to the seventh classroom. It had outside toilets and a water well, and is the building present residents refer to as "the old school." It was built in 1888 and was used until the present

Walout street building was erected. After this the building was serviceable as a base for vocational education —agriculture and home economics.

In March, 1906, the Board received a petition, signed by 42 eltizens of the school district, calling for a special election for voting bonds to repair, heat by steam, and build two additional classrooms. The election called for a \$4,500 loan for heating and repairs and carried 124-17. Steam heat was added, and in 1908 a fire escape was built by a Mr. Sharp for \$169.70.

Then, in September, 1918, "The teachers' request for partititions in the girls' closet was granted and the janitor ordered to construct same according to specifications of teachers."

In December, 1920, the Board began working on plans for what became the Walnut street building which is still being used as the junior high building. Mr. Felts, architect, met with the Board and was retained to make plans and specifications, Earl Ferrel (board member), W. E. Smith (superintendent) and J. L. (Mule) Campbell (vocational agriculture teacher) were appointed as a committee to work with Mr. Felts. The voters approved (400-33) bonding the district for \$26,000 to erect the building in May, 1921. Mr. Shultz was awarded the contract for \$51,750 and Mr. Foley was given the contract for heating and plumbing for \$9,500, it must have become apparent that the funds voted in May were insufficient, as the Board turned to the voters again in a special election in November, 1921, asking for \$34,000 at six per cent. The bonds carried 271-6. The Belton Masonic Lodge and the Parent-Teachers association took charge of laying the cornerstone. The Walnut building was first occupied in 1922.

During the 1930's the inadequacy of the old building became more evident, but times were hard, and in 1933 the Board asked their secretary to draft a WPA project covering all proposed work on the west (old) building, playground and parking area and submit to WPA for consideration. In December of that year, they asked the state school board to send an inspector to examine and pass on the old building from the standpoint of safety. Dr. Viles came, and said it was not immediately dangerous but should not be overloaded; beavy equipment used by the lunchroom should be kept off the top floor and put in the basement instead. Dr. Viles was asked to use his influence to get the WPA project for renewal of the west building. The direction of the planning changed and in October, 1939, the Board called a special election asking for \$8,000 in bonds to clear the site and erect a new science and arts building. That same month the old building was closed, except for the vocational agriculture department and some government sponsored adult classes such as the classes in canning in tin which were taught by Gladys Pennington. This science and arts building was completed in 1940 and is now being used by junior high classes in shop, home economics, art and special education for the junior and senior high, An addition was made to the east side of the building in 1963. This, together with the old Walnut building, is considered the junior high campus, the Scott building having been returned in 1971 to elementary use.

The school system has often been plagued by overcrowding and in 1954 the Scott elementary was opened with ten classrooms, offices and an all-purpose room, equipped with kitchen.

This building was used for grades one through four. The fifth and sixth grades were not moved from the Walnut building until other elementary schools were erected.

In 1956 the Board asked for a \$235,000 bond election for a high school building and purchase of a site for a new elementary building. The vote was favorable, 280-12. The first section of the new high school, completed in 1958, contained two science laboratories, home economics laboratory, two commerce rooms, a visual aid room, library, guidance and counseling rooms, toilet facilities, seven classrooms, and administrative offices. That same year voters approved an additional \$140,000 to complete a second section of the high school. This contained a gymnasium-auditorium, general shops, arts and crafts rooms, cafeteria, toilet and shower facilities. In 1969 the third section was occupied, more than doubling the classroom space and adding the comfort of carpeting and air conditioning.

In August, 1958, Belton voted (260-17) bonds in the amount of \$140,000 to build and furnish Westover school on land purchased from William H. Hargis for \$7,000, adjacent to Richards-Gebaur Air Force base. The school has been renamed Gladden Elementary in honor of Bill Gladden who was principal from shortly after the school opened in 1959 until his death in 1971. This has always been regarded as the air base school, though many others have attended it and Richards-Gebaur children sometimes attend the other schools.

The next year Cambridge elementary school was erected on former Hankins property south of the cemetery on Cambridge road. Patrons voted (366-14) \$120,000 for this one. In the middle 60s, this building was about doubled in size with the addition of twelve classrooms and two small rooms, making it the largest elementary building in the system.

Hillcrest was built west of town on Highway 58 in 1963 and is our newest elementary school. It has 24 classrooms, nurses' quarters, music room, offices, teachers' workroom, storage, and an all-purpose room that is built to be tornado proof. This room is equipped with a kitchen,

In addition to these buildings, the school has purchased five mobile classrooms, two for kindergarten at Hillcrest, and two at Gladden, one for kindergarten classes and one for fourth grade.

This past January patrons voted bonds in the amount of \$975,000 to provide a modern junior high building on school property at Mill and Cleveland. The first phase will consist of 32 classrooms, offices, library, gymnasium, toilets, and storage room. The building will be carpeted and air-conditioned. It will house the eighth and ninth grades. The seventh



The present high school building.

grade will not move into the new building until the second half is completed in about two years.

Bond figures quoted in this article are not intended to represent total costs of the buildings. Government grants have been added to district effort in every instance beginning with the funding, through WPA, on the science and arts building in 1931.

Belton can justly take pride in its school facilities. The district keeps planning and building to keep pace with increased enrollment and to maintain a Triple A rating (the highest given by the state) and to keep accrediation by the North Central Association of Schools.



Artist's drawing of new Junior High School,

PROGRESS AND PRODUCT

Belton's curriculums have changed to fit the changing times and have always been adequate, including subjects that would enable the student to find and to qualify for a niche in life. Before music, drama and the fine arts became course subjects, the Board encouraged them by letting the school rooms to teachers of piano and dancing and hiring coaches for drama, declamations, debating. Mary Catherine Sams, a first grade teacher at the time, was so employed in the 1930's. For all this she received seventy dollars per month.

When school was out in 1899, the Board "let the building to Miss Lora Grimes and Miss Lizzie Shouse to teach a onemonth subscription school," In 1938 they decided "Hartman be permitted to use the old building for music instruction during the summer, the new building to be closed June 1." The next year "Special teachers of music, dancing, etc. be

allowed to use the old building after May 1."

There were early attempts to provide an adequate library. In the early years of the century the Board gave the five cents per child enumeration paid to the school for the purchase of library books.

In 1906, the purchasing committee of the Board was authorized to supply Room One with slate and lead pencils.

Vocational agriculture for high school students came in with the Walnut street building, though the old building was used for this department. The subject was introduced by J. L. (Mule)



Class of 1918

This class was the first to wear caps and gowns. Shown (1 to r) front row are Florence Houston, Harry McNutt, Leta Schwanke. Wallace Blair and Lizzie Williams. Back row, Catherine Johnson and Gilmore Bradford.

Campbell, who had conducted practice teaching classes here for the University of Missouri as early as 1920, when there was only one other such program in the state. Other vocational agriculture teachers were Gus Dierks, Clawson and Kroeck. The vocational agriculture judging teams won many honors in competition at the American Royal and in the state. The Belton dairy judging team won first place at Memphis in competition with teams from 32 states in 1927,

As Belton moved from an agricultural community to a more industrial one, the school moved too, and vocational agriculture was exchanged for industrial arts and additional commercial courses. Home economics was kept as girls

are still preparing for homemaking.

If close attention is paid, reflections of our country's history can be seen in the curricular changes. John Meador of Grandview says his high school German courses served a useful purpose for him when he went to fight them in World War I, but on August 2, 1918, the Board ruled "No German shall be taught" and offered a course in French instead. Shadows of the depression are seen when, during the 1930's, the Board agreed that "any post-graduate student in the Commerce Department shall pay \$25 per year, one semester's tuition to be paid in advance."

Another example of changing the curriculum to fit the times: In 1899 the "Board decided that a diploma might be issued to Miss Sadie Monroe by making an exception of Latin." The next year "The course will be the same as last year excepting Latin which may be optional with the student." Later children were designated as being in the Latin course

or the English course.

No one received a diploma without working for it in the early days. In 1899 the Board fixed a grade of eighty percent for examination of pupils for graduating, and they seemed to adhere to it. The quality of the school and a little insight on the part of the Board drew "the cream of the crop" to Belton, In 1912 the Board gave scholarships to "honor student from Drexel, Cleveland, Raymore, Cass County, and to each district in Cass County." This attracted capable and serious students and enhanced the quality of the graduates. Following is a list of some of Belton's graduates from these outlying districts. Names followed by (T) show those who became teachers. No claim is made for the completeness of this list.

PECULIAR - 9 miles S. E. James Welborn; RAYMORE -Sallie Harwood, Lois Lightcap, Ida Mae Smith, Raymond Brisbin, Ralph Chaffin, Dean Shipley, Kenneth Bier, Carl Moneymaker; GILMORE - John, Milton, Laura and Verna Twente, Lydia, Bertha, Nannie, Mollie, Sallie, Howard and John Perkins, Russel and Susie Crum, Ethel and Harry Seba, Maude and Lea Yost, Mable and Wayne Painter.

MAPLE RIDGE - John W. Meador, Bill Davidson, Ivy

Green (T); HIGH CROVE - Margaret Snider (T); GRANDVIEW Fannie Lillard Robinson (T), Herbert Kreeger; MASTRY - Arthur and Henry Botts, Emmä Sage, Gladys, Clarence and

Ray Reynolds.

BALDWIN — Roy, Berry, Clarence, Chester and Mazie Meador, Mary Barr, Mary C. Sams (T), Hattie, Clyde and Maude Balding; McSpadden — Mary, Dot and June Holloway; HIGH BLUE — Kate Trullinger, Laura, Fannie and Ed Hawthorne, Euel B. and Kathleen Young, Robert Holloway; MT. PLEASANT — Lena Walters (T), Morine and Mary Bill Hendrix, Esther (T), Ruth, Doris and Baker LaMar, Grace Dobson; PLEASANT PRAIRIE — Ingrums (T), Wests and Aldersons. PLEASANT VALLEY — Marie, Faustina and LeRoy Lodson, Hazel Nelson Kincaid, Jerry Sullivan, A Rosier, William Harrison, Harriet (T), Nell and John Shouse, Rev. Jaudon.

SWAMPY — Charlie Brown, Andy Sears (T), Charley and Carl Henderson, Wallace and Mike Blair, Ives, Nancy (T), Florence (T), Fern (T), John (T) and Albert (T) Reid, Verna Olivia, and Catherine Boren; DREXEL — Francis Vogel, Goldie

Davis, Mae Shorb (T) and Herpalicy Gray (T).

Many graduates from Belton itself became teachers. Many others have made useful places for themselves in other areas of service. David Allen Lasley, M. D. is a unologist in the state of Kansas. Harold Rosier is an outstanding surgeon in Waurika, Okla. In World War II he served with General Patton and at one time worked 72 hours without stopping. Dr. Ivan Miller is a radiologist in the San Francisco area. Don Bishop is an orthopedic surgeon with General Motors, John McKee is a Doctor of Osteopathy, practicing in Belton, Terry Tracy specialized in gynecology and obstretics and is practicing in Wichita.

Then there was the other kind of doctor—the Ph.D. George Spear, Jr., is the newest one, having just earned his degree from the University of Missouri where he is assistant Dean of Continuing Education. Henry Boots' Ph.D was in chemistry and he was with Hercules Powder Company until he retired in Florida. John Shouse, Ph.D, was at one time Superintendent of Schools in Kansas City. The brothers Ryden were two Belton high school graduates who became Ph.D's, George H. Ryden took his degree in Education and Lawrence Ryden, Ph.D., was the originator of latex paint for the Dow Chemical Company. Other Ryden graduates of accomplishment are Carl, who was an engineer with the Federal Aviation Authority in planning Richards-Gebaur and Donald Ryden who is a Ph.D. is Dr. Harold Black, principal of an elementary school in Calif.

These are among Belton graduates serving as gospel ministers: Fred Campbell in Texas; Frank Herr in Colorado; Harry Spear in Maryville, Missouri, and Franklin Lohr in Liberal, Missouri. The Rev. Fuller Jaudon was a preacher in the community that bears that name.

In addition to these professionals, we have Grace Wilson Van Brunt, founder and president of the Grace Company, manufacturer of children's clothes and Lucy Wilson Dunlap, who operates the Little Shirt Company. A Ives Reid was at one time State Representative for this area, Many Belton graduates have gone on to earn college degrees and bring distinction to themselves and to their country.

If you have attended Belton Public School at any time since 1896, be assured there is a record, not only of your attendance, but of your conduct and performance as a student. This may sound like "Judgment Day" but a student should take his responsibilities seriously and accept free public education as a privilege not to be taken lightly. Thousands of hours of study and preparation and many dollars have gone into the planning and development of an institution of which Belton is justly proud, and it's yours -- so work for its continued improvement and never, never abuse it.

BELTON'S PRESENT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. James N. Shannahan



The Meadors

Over a period of 68 years there has been a member of the Meador family attending the Belton schools.

Beginning with Roy W. Meador, who enrolled in the Belton High School from the Baldwin country school north of town in Sept. 1904, the next in line were his brothers and sisters, Berry, Clarence, Chester, Mazie, Harry, Herbert and Marguerite.

In the next generation there was Marjorie Lee, Chester L., Sara Margaret, Robert W., Nellie, Irma, Dean, Sara Ellen, James G, and Harry Dallas.

Robert W. Jr.'s enrollment began the third generation. Theresa will be a senior this year at Belton High School making 19 members of the family who have attended Belton schools.



Class of 1919

Because of World War I, this class had no formal graduation pictures taken. Shown bottom row (1 to r) is Frank Smith and Russell Crow. Middle row Faye Casper, Bernice Blair, Marian Wells, Kathleen Barnes, Frances Meiller and Mildred Hart. Top row Mildred Smith, Verdi Gibbs, Pauline Alderson, Charles Middleton, Allen George, Millard Everett and Mildred Street. Miss Gibbs taught physics, agriculture and basketball, Miss Street taught French, English and Economics.

FORMER SUPERINTENDENTS







Tom Walker



Prof. F. M. Dumm

1894-1906 — A. A. Wirt (salary \$80 per month); 1906-1909 — Tom Walker (salary \$75 per month); 1909-1911 — E. L. Harrison (\$100 per month); 1911-1918 — F. M. Dumm (\$125), the first one referred to as superintendent; 1918-1919 — Lucius S. Wright (\$133 1/3) one month his warrant was made out for \$133.34 and then for two months \$133.33; 1919-1924 — W. E. Smith (\$100 — in 1920 he was given \$2,000 over a 12-month period, the first on other than a monthly basis, and the first with an expense account).

1924-Jan. 17, 1925 - C. E. Brock. For the last half-year

Miss Hazel Slusher, now Mrs. Hazel O'Dell, was promoted to superintendent. She was offered the position again but preferred classroom teaching, and was given a \$100 bonus in appreciation for her fine service; 1925-1934 — G. J. Smith (\$2,400); 1934-1936 — E. L. Zion (\$1,485); 1936-1939 — David U. Groce (\$150 per month for ten months); 1939-1947 — Vernon Griggs (\$155 to \$2,600); 1947-1948 — Charles E. Nesbitt (\$2,800); 1948-1955 — Elvis E. Simpson (\$3,000); 1955-1968 — Dr. C. F. Yeokum; 1968-1971 — Dr. Donald E. Tolbert; 1971 — Dr. James N. Shannahan.

PICTURE ALBUM - SCHOOLS



At top left is Vernon W. Wille, who left the Belton school system at the end of the 1972 school year after having been high school principal for 14 years. Top right, The Beta Mothers at a meeting early this year. This organization has helped the members of Beta Club attend state conventions in St. Louis the past several years. Students are selected on the basis of scholarship, character and service. Bottom left, Belton Red Cross volunteers help out during the year in the school health rooms. Mrs. Kay Mc-Cartney presents an oil painting of the late Bill Gladden to James N. Shannahan, superintendent. The picture hangs in the W. O. Gladden school (formerly Westover Elementary).



Belton's first kindergarten began in 1951. Mrs. Mary Ketteman established a spring term kindergarten in her home with eight pupils. That fall, she began a full term with 14 pupils. A committee of the Baptist Church membership then helped organize and sponsor the school which met at the church under the guidance of Mrs. C. E. Keltner. These youngsters were the first group to officially "graduate" from Belton's first kindergarten which was eventually incorporated

into the Belton school system. Pictured back row (I to r) are Linda McKee, LeRoy Dillon, Pamela Bishop, David Folk, Nancy Alexander, Ricky Pearson, Donna Harris, Jim Blair, Lana Buck and Billy Westhoff. Front row, Diana Shirk, Nancy Lee Benson, Jimmy Sperling, Margo Tabor, Billy Keeney, Alice Shader, Don Balding, Glenda Combs, Jerry Jackson and Ruth McNeil. A good many of these students went on through school together and graduated from Belton High School in 1965.





CASS COUNTY BASKETBALL champions for the 1929-30 season was this group. Known as the 'point-a-minute' team shown top row (I to r) are Eugene Hart, Jesse Grisham, Prof. G. D. Keith, coach; Wilber Wyatt, Albert Craycraft. Bottom row, Kenneth Groh, Harold Rosier, Terrill Yocum and James Pettus. Three high school students of the seventies 'ham it up' after a unique band concert. Representing the thirties (left) is Janell Chadbourne; the lifties, Kathy Maurer, and the seventies, Barbara Klaus. At right, a typical Belton school class of the seventies. Shown back row (I to r) are Mrs. Howard

Westerman, Richard Fager, Roger Cecil, Brenden Wiley, Wayne Spencer, Evelyn Murphy, Karen Duncan, Sandy Lane, Bob Gauldin, principal and director of elementary education; Third row, Terry McHale, Jimmy Gunning, Sherry Lofstrom, Lori Deakins, Patti Maurer, Billy Buzzini. Second row, Linda Benning, Adrian Turner, Kim Green, Billy O'Connell, Randy Cummings, Gary Beauchamp, Jimmy Sears, First row, Michael Van Ess, Daniel Porter, Mark Renken and Patricia Sloan.



Belton High School Centennial Year Class



Denise Pamela Adams, Dottie L. Anderson, Greg Armstrong, Steve Armstrong, Deborah Rae Arterbery, Randall Taylor Attwood, Lee Baker, John Bath, Stan Lee Bell, Ralph T. Berry, Vicki G. Berry, Bobette Bess, Jonathan Grant Biddison, Donna Jean Biles, Gregg Robert Bogucki, Michael Wayne Boydston, Stanley Michael Bozarth, Dwight C. Brannon, Debra K. Brewer, Sandra L. Brooks, Patricia I., Burke, Jennifer Ann Butler, Roger A. Callahan, Angelia Carlene Candler, Steven L. Carson, Marjory Elizabeth Chapman, Marianne Coe, Carol Ann Coit, Billy G. Coleman, Jr., Lang K. Coleman, Marvin Lee Colgin, Elizabeth Marie Combs, Craig Ernest Conklin, Arthur W. Courcelle, Sallie Ellen Courter, Vicki Lynn Cunningham, Allen Dale, Regina Kay Dameron, Susan R. Darden, Robert Davidson, David Davis, Robert E. Dehnert, Jr., Margo Lynn Dellaguardia, Michael A. Deponte, Ava Marilyn Diamond, Damon K. Dimmick, Diana K. Dimmick, Donna G. Dobson, Janice Sue Dockery, Barbara Jo Dorsey, John Downs, Mike Earhart, Linda Kay Elkins, Susan J. Ferraro, Jill Ann Ferree, Monte Ray Fleagle, Sheryl Ann Fleming, Anita Carol Ford, Roger Leigh Fonts, Pat Frazier, Robert D. Freeman, Earl C. Fuller, Mark Gaby, Billie Ann Gammill, Timothy Patrick Garrahan, Lorraine Gauvin, Gigi G. Gieger, Mary Desira Gillespie, Daniela Glaser, Sharon Mai Goin, Patricia Ann Goldman, Michael E. Grant, Martin L. Griffin, William E. Griner, Stephen D. Gray, Rex Anthony Hainey, Linda L. Hall, Terry Louise Hall, Chris E. Hambley, Vinnie Mae Hammond, Vicki Lynn Hankins, Janice Irene Hayes, Judith Lynn Hayes, Joseph Steven Hayes, Jay Stuart Helland,

William Michael Henry, Sandra Lee Hibbert, Ricky L. Hicks, Karen Lynn Hilaszek, Rhonda Hilburn, Kathryn Ann Hill, Patricia Diane Hillis, Chuck A. Holden, William S. Holden, Gerald Howell, Donna Lynn Hubbard, Michael Hughes, Romonia L. Hunholz, Sharon Kay Hutchinson, Donna Lynn Hutto, John W. Irwin, Richard W. Jakeman, Steve E. January, Jerry Lynn Jeremiah, Curtis Lee Johnson, Steve W. Johnston, Cheryl Dalynn Jones, Teresa Lynn Jones, James Edward Jursch, Keith Kappen, Janice Eileen Keller, Rita Kay Kelley, Edwin Dale Kenslow, Robert Fred Kiefer, Albert L. Kinworthy, Jr., Randy E. Knippa, Harry Steven Knoblauch, Janell Rae Kolesar, Bud Lager, Cindy Laine, Claire Janet Lambert, Dennis G. LaMons, Daniel Lawrence, Randall L. Lawson, Joel W. Looney, Patricia Jean Lowry, Nancy Faye Lusk, Linda McAllister, Leslie McCanon, Michael Edward McDonough, Patricia Catherine McDonough, Mark Luonard McFarland, Randy Verne McKee, Richard Wade McKinley, Susan Marie McKnight, Charley N. McNeely, Mona R. Mackey, Walter Joseph Maguire, Joyce Louise Manor, Georganne Martin, Donald. J. Miller, Kevin Eugene Miller, Sharilyn Rae Miller, Linda Sue Mills, Kayla Sue Mitchell, Sharon Kay Morris, Sheila Morris, Douglas Mosby, L. K. Mosby, Jr., Jan T. Mosch, Anita A. Moyer, Greg L. Mull, Douglas A. Neugebauer, Steven G. Newkirk, Susan J. Newman, Brent James Nickel, Joy Lynn Offutt, Janice Paeth, Mary Louise Patterson, Linda Peters, Margie E. Peters, Timothy R. Peterson, Wade Scott Plummer, Rebekah Lu Popejoy, Edward J. Porter, John D. Powell, Mark Douglas Putnam, Robin

k. Quasa, Douglas Joseph Railey, Jr., Deborah Susan Raines, Mary Dianne Raney, Thomas Wayne Banscher, Diane Marie Ravellette, Paula Jo Pawlins, Cathy Rav. Deborah Ann Ray, Jo Ready, Shirley Lucille Reardon, John Edward Renken, James David Robbins, Jennifer Lee Rode, Debbie Lynn Roebuck, Gloria Jane Rossiter, Frederick Allen Rudroff, Larry Rogers Sanders, Rhonda Joanne Sawyer, Gary Robert Scott, Barbara A. Shaw, A. E. Shepherd, Keith Michael Stevens, David Stevenson, Engere L. Strathman, Charles Joseph Stukesbary, Roy Alexander Skivers, Colleen Frances Slinker, Dan E. Smith, Jan M. Smith, Jack Oliver Smith, Jr., Andrew Frank Snead, Alan Spidle, Marc R. Sportsman, Judith Kay Sprigg, Vance Steen, June Anne Steinbrueck, Paul J. Stoll, Jr., Michael Deane Sulgrove, Lewis Robert Sullivan, Rick F. Swaffer, Tebra Sue Swaffer, Stan L. Swaggart, Linda Lee Swan, William G. Talcott, Jr., Deborah Kay Taylor, Robert Terrell Taylor, Anthony Albert Taylor, John Mitchell Teal, James Francis Terry, Kenneth W. Thomas, Larry Ray Todd, Jill Ras Toom, Richard R. Tracy, Freds Traylor, Edwina Ann Tull, Denise Adele Turner, Michael W. Valdepena, Michael W. Valdepena, Michael J. Van Akon, Terry Lee Van Dyne, Shirley Ann Van Wyk, Gary Vidmar, David Voorbees, Bonita Ruby Walker, Sharon Kay Walker, Margaret Janette Wall, Peggy Ann Thompson Wesner, John D. Wenkel, Debra Zoan West, Daniel Doyal White, Nancy Gall White, Linda Ann Winnie, Lari Lee Wolf, Christopher D. Wood, Barry R. Woodward, Eugene Wright, Guy Wright, Joan David Wyseman and Larry R. Young.





Belton's Main Street in 1951 looked like this. The aerial photo was taken the same year looking northeast from the then new Lacy Estates development.

The transition of a city that had been provincial began to take shape in the 1950's with a population growth to 1,226 from a 1940 census figure of 971, its eventual status later in the decade as the largest city in Cass County, and fruition of an uphill struggle for establishment of house-to-house mail delivery.

Later came an announcement that would send Belton's population soaring when it was revealed in January of 1951 that the headquarters of a new air command to protect the Midwest against enemy bomber attack would be located at the Grandview Airport. The Grandview Air Base (later to be renamed Richards-Gebaur in July, 1956), was to serve as headquarters for a Central Air Command and act as a nerve-center for a network of outlying interceptor aircraft bases.

At the mayoral reins during these years of tremendous growth potential was George E. Spear, who won re-election in April of 1951, three weeks after Memorial Park had been freed from debt when the sale of advertising space around baseball fields brought in enough money to pay off loans made by public spirited citizens.

The Mount Pleasant and Pleasant Prairie school districts voted to join the Belton school district in April, 1950, to indicate expansion on the school front. Belton High School's 1950 graduation class numbered 20 and its 1960 class graduated 62.

At the August, 1950 Belton High School reunion, Mrs. Lou Lewis of the class of 1894 was the eldest graduate. Mrs. Frank Mosby acted as chairwoman for more than 300 graduates and guests. In September of that year, the school system opened with an enrollment of 216 grade and 89 high school students.

Probably the most spectacular accident of the decade came in September when John Van Brunt Jr. narrowly escaped fatal injury when his motor vehicle collided with a passenger train at the High Blue crossing on Highway 58. The crack diesel, making the crossing between 70 and 80 mph, was northbound when Mr. Van Brunt, eastbound, crossed the blind intersection.

The nationally-famous Dale Carnegie, then living in Forest Hills, N. Y., visited his Belton farm home in October.

In addition to increased activity at Richards-Gebaur (nee Grandview Air Base) May of 1951 brought with it an overwhelming annexation vote to embrace areas on both sides of Highway 71 to the Cass-Jackson County line into the city limit of Belton. Three months later the Ferd Owen Livestock Commission moved its headquarters to the Belton area from Kansas City. In September the city council appointed the first planning commission to initiate zoning laws for Belton, Serving on that first commission were Mary Catherine Sams, Frank Blair, Jr., William V. Powell, Earl Westholf and George E. Spear, mayor. In October a plat was filed for a new ten-acre addition which provided for 20 building sites. It was named Catron Addition,

In early 1952 a group of citizens protested in Jefferson City the relocation of Highway 71 to its present location from what is now North Scott Avenue. State engineers disagreed with the protest saying the move was necessary to eliminate a number of dangerous curves and to conform to the state's long-range highway improvement program.



Boy Scouts Fred Lininger, Skip Wyatt and Terry Wear spent a session at Camp Osceola in the early fifties.

Belton schools continued to suffer growing pains in March when average daily attendance shot to 270 from 213 in 1949-1950. Figures pointed out that the cost to operate schools had risen to \$58,000 annually from an \$18,000 1939-40 figure.

In April of 1952 the responsibility for operation and control of Memorial Park was turned over to the city council by the



DRILL TEAMS were active in the late forties and fifties. This was Belton's Royal Neighbor's group. Pictured (1 to r) are Naminie Idol, musician; Mary Pitts, Coleen Hampshire, Pauline Hankins, Martha Peacock, Edith Gross, captain; Kathryn Reynolds, Mary Louis Hampshire, Helen Hampshire, Gladys Carter, Lillian Idol, captain; Dorothy Feeback and Johnnie Deere.

THE BELTON BOOTS AND BELLES Square Dance Club at their Easter Dance in 1952. Standing (I to r) are Laura Dorrell, Louisa Gabrail, Marilyn Dial, Leo Dorrell, Richard Quimt, Warren Dial, Mary Faulkner, Frank Blair, Lloyd Starner, Paul Wyatt and Leo Mosby, Middle row, Bea Starner, Mary Lucille Bishop, unknown, and Kathryn Hankins. Kneeling are Bill Powell, Helen Quinn, Ricky Quinn, Elizabeth Blair, Elean Wyatt, Ernestine Powell and Virginia Mosby.





BETHEL CHAPTER of Job's Daughters was granted its charter on Nov. 14, 1955. Charter members pictured are first row (1 tor) Mary Lou Webb, Emma Hundley, Betty Mustion, Mary Helen Erwin, Carol Jane Whittington. Rosemary Still, Jean Ann Jones and Harriet Hundley. Second row, Linda Howard, Michal Jackson, Mickey Tabor, Debbie Hockaday, Mary Ann Tabor, Barbara Herndon, Mary Lou Jacoby, Jessie Mae Bower, Karen Salis-bury, Mary McKinley, Beverly Beidleman. Third row, Verna Hopper, Janice Wyatt, Virginia Nodine, Dixie McKinley, Anita McKinley, Harriet Turner, Nina Ladd, Ina Ladd, Margaret Hundley, Sharon Anderson, Ella Marie Still, Nancy Ann Price, Maria Ladd, Margaret Murphy and Jeannie Robie.

THIS IS BELTON'S only undefeated 11-man football team. The feat was accomplished in the fall of 1953, with a squad of 17 players. The team was coached by G. C. Coomes, Jr., himself a Belton alumnus. It was his first year of coaching 11-man football. Team members were Verl Bowers, J. R. Wyatt, Larry Hankins, Brian Frank, Roland Nethaway, Johnny Groh, Johnny Haskins, Bob Carter, Ed Greenwell, Adrian Hampshire, John Porter, Jerry Hankins, Bruce Pressly, Don Greenwell, Vernon Mucke and Elmer Bishop.



Chamber of Commerce and a merry-go-round, donated three weeks later by the Pleasant Prairie school district, proved the sturdiness of its construction by still being a part of the park's recreational equipment to this day.

After a drive for city mail delivery, Belton learned in May that it was turned down by postal department until a number of qualifications were met. Some of the qualifications included at least \$10,000 annually in postal receipts, improved streets and sidewalks, and the erection of house numbers and street signs. To add to the frustration it was learned that a city must have more than 2,500 population.

In June of 1952 Hy-Klas food stores, still serving Belton, became the official name of the Shawhan-Herndon grocery partnership. In the same month Southwestern Bell acquired the local telephone company from Western Light and Telephone.

Belton faced a severe water shortage in July when the Kansas City and Jackson County Water Co. notified city of-

EMERGENCY ORDER!

Conserve Your Water

The City of Belton on longer is receiving water from Kamas City and most depend on two local wells for our water supply. These wells DO NOT give adequate water for normal use, so CONSERVE in every possible way.

Do not wash cars

Do not wash unnecessary clothes

Close all faucets tightly

Use sparingly for Sanitation

Water customms (cand weating water will be shut off until the emergency is over

> By order of the Mayor BELTON, MISSOURI

ficials use of water must be curtailed and that emergency restrictions would be enforced. The same month Lamar Airport (now Villnave), six miles southwest of Belton, opened for business for private airplanes.

The year 1952 also saw the end of an era when the Dixie Theater, which started in 1909, went out of business with Citizens Bank moving into the 325 Main Street location, its present site.

In January of 1953 Southwestern Bell, continuing to flex its expansion muscles, took over the Belton and Raymore telephone systems. Keeping abreast of the school district's growth pattern, voters approved in March a \$140,000 bond issue to construct what is now Scott elementary school. In May, the High Blue district joined the Belton district and in July the Methodist Church held an auction sale that cleared more than \$1,000 to pave the way for construction of a new educational building and sanctuary. In September, Belton schools opened with 469 pupils and in October, the first Air Force unit to be assigned to Richards-Gebaur — the 4676th Air Defense Group — received orders it would be activated in October.

In November Belton became the 279th community in the state to welcome a Lions Club into its arms. The same month the BHS Pirates completed the 1953 football season with an unbeaten record in nine games. February of 1954 saw the first Air Force units move to Richards-Gebaur and in March the Central Air Defense Command completed the full transplant making Belton a service community. New street lights illuminated North Scott Avenue and, in a wolf drive sponsored by the American Legion, 500 hunters bagged four wolves. Tantamount to community progress was the establishment of a building zoning code in May to bring orderliness to Belton's rapid growth. Serving on the zoning commission were Russell Mullen, chairman; Richard E. George, William V. Powell, Robert E. Jones and James O. Branham.

With the Chamber of Commerce erecting new picnic tables and the city adding heavy duty playground equipment,
Memorial Park gained attention with its increased recreational facilities. In August voters added 60 more acres to the
city limit. That month also saw the advent of Air Force Appreciation Night when more than 2,000 persons jammed the
park. It remained Air Force Appreciation Night until the late
sixties when the name was changed to Belton-Richards-Gebaur
Community Day. September marked another record when
school enrollment reached 587 pupils.

In February of 1955 another 44 acres in Lacy Estates was annexed into the city limit. After eight years of a one-man reign in the mayoral seat, William V. Powell chalked up a clear-cut victory over George E. Spear to give Belton a new administration in April. The same month the 442nd Troop Carrier Wing relocated at Richards-Gebaur. In May an open house at Richards-Gebaur saw a plane christened "The Spirit of Belton." Mayor Powell and Queen Carol Still officiated at the christening.

The change of more than 2,100 Belton and Raymore telephones from manual to dial brought curiosity to area residents in June with many trial calls. In September, Highway 71 opened to by-pass Belton to the east and relieve considerable traffic problems. Now cussed by many, and to be cussed by many in the future, one-way traffic was established on Main Street in September. Instituted in October was a first step in a renewed effort headed by the Lions Club to obtain city mail delivery. Direct dialing between Belton-Raymore and Kansas City was instituted in December, a month before Belton voters overwhelmingly supported a \$230,000 bond issue to expand water and sewer facilities, \$70,000 to be used for a 300,000 gallon water tower at Deer Park and \$160,000 for a new sewage plant just off Cambridge Road.

With a special census conducted in December, the impetus of which was started by the Lions Club to establish house-to-house mail delivery, Belton officially became the largest city in Cass County with a population of 3,010.



NELSON MULLEN, president of the Belton Lions Club made the presentation of the first metal street signs to Mayor William V Powell as Herman Griggs (right) looks on.

In January of 1956 a new fire truck was being equipped to replace a unit built for the department several years ago. A new city park (now called Peace Park) at Second and Chestnut streets was to become a reality when in February, Miss Martha Smoot deeded six lots to the city. Voters approved in March the addition of 239 acres (220 in Lacy Estates, 10 on South Avenue and nine on Markey Road) into the city. Belton placed its first official police car into service in March. The law enforcement vehicle was equipped with siren, red light, spotlight and two-way radio. After years of service in Belton, The Grace Company moved into its new building on Mill Street and in June a \$235,000 bond issue was approved with little opposition for a new high school building. The long battle for house-to-house mail delivery received a boost with the installation of street signs in August. In September the Belton school system had 810 pupils enrolled.

Finally, in June of 1957, house-to-house mail delivery was approved and after five years of frustration was instituted in November. Earlier in the year 65 acres on the old Carnegie farm and a ten-acre tract of G. C. Hankins was approved for annexation. Belton school enrollment approached the 1,000

mark with the enrollment of 924 pupils,

A complete police protection system was initiated in January of 1958 by Mayor Powell and the city council with the appointment of John Blum as special police officer, a step to give Belton 24-hour protection for the first time in its history.

In June the Belton post office was elevated to first class status and master plans were drawn for sewer expansion in September. Ten acres for what is now Gladden elementary school were annexed into the city in November and in December Raymore voters rejected a proposal to join the Belton school district.

With Mayor Powell still at the mayoral helm (he won his third term in office in April) the year 1959 continued to show a tremendous growth pattern with 1,500 enrolled in the school system that September. Richards-Gebaur established base housing and the first family moved into the new quarters,

The pattern set, the once small-town Belton community would remain on its course for its establishment as a leader in Cass County.



CONSTRUCTION OF BELITON'S sewer plant was started on June 1, 1956 and was completed Jan 15, 1957. The project was written up in the October, 1957 issue of AMERICAN CITY magazine and was approved by the State Board of Health in March, 1957. All work was done under the administration of William V. Powell and aldermen James A. Herndon, J. Maurice Robie, G. C. Coomes and Fred Folk. Shown accepting the keys to the plant from contractor John H. Parkinson is Mayor Powell. Others (I to r) are R. H. Sorber, engineer; Lyle Furman, plant operator; J. A. Herndon; Maurice Robie and John Folk.



On Memorial Day morning in 1957, a new flag pole was inaugurated at City Hall. These cub scouts were members of Belton's newest den under the leadership of Mrs. Shirley Woodward, Pictured are (I to r) Dick Summers, Tommy Peters, Bob Woodward, Zane Gresham, Donald Shaw and Kent Powell.



SAM FEEBACK, presents a picture he took of the first family to President Harry S. Truman. Feeback had a studio in Belton after World War II and went on to become a well-known television cameraman.

City Government



J. Wayne Willey, present mayor of Belton, was born in Kansas City, Jan. 22, 1934. He is a 1952 graduate of Center High School and graduated from the University of Missouri in 1956. He served two years in the Army from 1956 until 1958 and moved to Belton in 1962.

He was a member of the Belton Jaycees for six years from 1963 to 1969 and was president of that organization in 1967.

He was elected city councilman in 1965, served two terms and was elected mayor in 1969. He is presently serving his second term.

During his terms of office, the swimming pool was constructed, the ambulance service was put into operation, the water lines were brought in from Kansas City, and the city limits of Belton have almost doubled by various annexations.

A comprehensive zoning plan has almost been completed, and the city has established a Civil Defense and Warning System. He is the first mayor to preside over an eight man council due to the change and addition of voting wards.

Willey has operated the Wayne Willey Disposal Service in Belton since 1962 and in 1971 acquired the Hickman Mills Garage.



J. R. Parrish and his family -- Belton's first mayor

George W. Scott and William H. Colbern platted and dedicated the town of Belton on Dec. 20, 1871. This dedication was witnessed by James B. Campbell, Notary Public of Jackson County.

Within a year at least two-thirds of the town's inhabitants signed the petition requesting incorporation and on Tuesday, August 27, 1872, the County Court of Cass County at Harrison-ville, Mo. did "order, adjudge and decree that henceforth the inhabitants - - shall be a body politic and corporate by the name and style of 'The Inhabitants of the town of Belton' and are hereby incorporated under said name ...' The first Board of Trustees for the governing of the new town was appointed by the county court and consisted of J. B. Robinson, B. F. Dresser, L. M. Trumbull, A. M. Phleagur and McHenry Long.

The Scott and Colbern First Addition to the town of Belton was platted and recorded on April 10, 1872 and the plat showing the original town boundaries was filed for record ten years later on April 11, 1882.

Belton's first mayor, elected in 1879, was J. R. Parrish



Belton's City Hall Park as it appeared in an earlier day.

and he was followed in 1881 by George W. Scott. Not all of the town's mayors are known. City records prior to 1905 are no longer in existence.

W. J. Bradford was mayor for a total of 12 years. He served from 1905 to 1909, from 1923 to 1925 and from 1935 to 1939. During Bradford's first term construction was begun on the present City Hall with one directive ordering "all lumber to be straight and sound, free from loose knots, shakes and well seasoned".

W. P. Houston governed Belton for 10 years from 1911 to 1919 and from 1921 to 1923. In April, 1911, an election of Ordinance 138 regarding an electric light franchise was held and defeated.

Next in length of service were G. A. Noland and George E. Spear with a total of eight years each as mayor. 1925 through 1931 were the years in which Noland led the town's growth. Bonds were approved on Ordinance 241 covering a water works and sewer system in 1929. Spear directed Belton's advance from 1947 to 1955, 1948 saw the passage of the gas Franchise Ordinance (298) and the passage of Ordinance 204 in May of 1951 saw further growth as Belton extended its city limits.

A. Ives Reid elected April 7, 1941 as mayor served until Jan. 4, 1943 when he resigned to take office as State Representative.

Arthur Francis (Frank) Hundley, the only mayor to die in office, was born in Kansas City, Kans. on May 3, 1883. Orphaned when he was 14 years old, he and a younger brother, Charles Grover Hundley, made their home with relatives.

Hundley married Mary Emiline Hundley on June 8, 1904. He was employed by the Hope Lumber Company, starting as a yard man, and during the next twenty years in Belton, he became bookkeeper, local manager and then district manager for the lumber yard. He was also a contractor and builder and built many homes in Belton. After his death, his wife served as city clerk for seven years.

William J. Mosby was the first mayor who was born and raised in Belton and his term of office extended from 1961 to



Arnold Davis, city administrator; Estella Davis, Alice Strathman and Mary Lucille Bishop are the office staff at city hall.

1965. During his terms, the first city administrator was hired.

The present mayor is J. Wayne Willey who was first elected in 1969. Working with him is Arnold E. Davis, city administrator. Present city councilmen are Leo Mosby, Thad P. Corder, Elmo Seymour, Melvin Bass, J. L. (Jake) Jones, Charles Davis, Leonard Rudroff and Russell Oliver.

Still active in community affairs are past mayors, William V. Powell, William J. Mosby and Robert E. Jones.

Men who served on earlier city councils have not been mentioned, nor have those who worked on various city boards and committees; but without the efforts of good, well-intentioned men who gave generously of time and energy, Belton would never have reached its 100th birthday.

FORMER MAYORS

J. R. Parrish, 1879-1880; George W. Scott, 1881; George W. Ferrill, 1882; mayors are not known for the years 1883 to 1888; G. W. Reynolds, 1889; J. H. Young, 1890; William Chandler, 1891; William Anes, 1892; Dr. R. M. Slaughter, 1893-1895; T. R. Hughes, 1897-1899; George W. Ferrill, 1900-1902; J. F. Blair, 1903-1904; W. J. Bradford, 1905-1907; George E. Mosely, 1909; W. P. Houston, 1911-1917; Gus

Handley, 1919; W. P. Houston, 1921; W. J. Bradford, 1923; G. A. Noland, 1925-1931; E. D. Enloe, 1933; W. J. Bradford, 1935-1939; A. Ives Reid, 1941; W. Burkhart, 1943; A. F. Hundley, 1943-1945; Dr. H. L. Bussong, 1945; George E. Spear, 1947-1953; William V. Powell 1955-1959; William J. Mosby, 1961-1963; Robert E. Jones, 1965-1967; J. Wayne Willey, 1969-1971.





Mr. and Mrs. William P. Houston



Mr. and Mrs. Gus Handley



A. Ives Reid





Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hundley



George Spear



Mr. and Mrs. William V. Powell and Kent



Mr. and Mrs. William J. Mosby, David and Doug





Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Jones

Belton Library

Heiton's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) led by Mrs. F. S. (Laura) Turner in 1936, laid the foundation for Belton's fine library. After a round table discussion at a PTA program in the spring of that year, followed by an organizational dinner attended by some 50 people, the Belton Library Center was organized. Committees were appointed to investigate location, shelving, books, means of support and operation.

The site chosen was the Cunningham building (now Dryden Drug Store) using the small front room as the library and the larger room as a lounge for the convenience of women who lived in the country when they needed a place for meeting,

rest, or care of children.

Lumber was donated by the Hope Lumber Company for shelves and the men of the community made them. Books were

donated by the PTA, clubs and churches.

The lounge was open every day, but the Library for a while was open only a few days a week and operated by members of the PTA. In the early years, it was supported by donations, the proceeds of hamburger stands at street fairs, book reviews, newspaper and magazine collections, a library association and other projects. The book reviews were given by women from Kansas City and held in the lounge.

Members of the first board chosen from givic organizations and churches were Mrs. S. D. Sprinkle, president; Mrs. Millard McCulloh, secretary and board members, Miss Rose Glenn, Mrs. Rena Huber, Wylie Wood, Rev. C. A. Lemon and Mrs.

Turner,

Dr. J. B. Lee Kinzy became a board member in 1937 and through his efforts N. Y. A. (National Youth Assn.) funds became available and Miss Pauline Endicott, Miss Frieda Walker, Miss Virginia Herr and Miss Lila Fitzgerald were hired as clerks.

A move was made to the Harris Building (410 Main) and in July, 1939, a Public Library Association was formed as a means of supporting the library. Another move was made, this time to rooms above the Murray Grocery Store in August of that year and in September, the board found it advisable to transfer to a W. P. A. project. Mrs. Margaret Miller and Miss Kate Trullinger became clerks whose salary was paid by W. P. A.

Sometime in 1941, the Library was moved to a downstairs room in the present Missouri Public Service building and then to an upstairs room over Turk's Grocery Store (320 Main St.) in 1943. The following year it became a tax supported municipal library and was moved to City Hall where it remained until it was moved to its present location in the American Legion building in June 1963.

With the move its services began to grow like Topsy and in July, 1963, 1,763 books were circulated as opposed to 762 the previous year. Children's reading sessions were instituted



and the library continued to grow.

In 1966 there was some discussion and a petition circulated for the Library to merge with the Cass County Public Library District with headquarters at Harrisonville. The local library board felt the merger "was not in the best interest of the Belton Library at this time." Eventually, in 1967, an experimental nine month contract was entered into between the Belton Library, Cass County Library and Mid-Continent library association.

Mid-Continent is a service set up to provide adequate, library service to a number of libraries by using mass purchasing, processing and distribution of library materials. Belton's library today is a member of Mid-Continent service as are all other Cass County libraries. All 30 libraries in the system share their reference sections and circulation collections. For Belton residents this means that they have access to almost any desired reference material within the space of a few days, simply by leaving their request at the local library.

In the years 1947 to 1955, circulation figures ran from a low of 3,551 to a high of 4,940 in 1955. In the next seven years, somewhere around 7,000 books were circulated per year. But from 1962 when circulation was 8,350, circulation figures jumped dramatically to 14,527 in 1963 to 26,048 in 1966. The last five years the figure has averaged about 35,000 annually.

Pictured are (left) Miss Mildred Walker, assistant librarian who has been with the Belton library for 10 years and Mrs. Glenn Cowan, who after doing volunteer work with the library for several years was named head librarian in 1967.

Belton Post Office

Belton's post office was established as a fourth class post office, March 18, 1872. It became a Presidential third class office on Feb. 14, 1899, advanced to second class July

1, 1943 and to a first class office, July 1, 1958.

There had been a post office at High Blue dating back to Aug. 21, 1860. James M. Woods was postmaster and the office was discontinued Nov. 13, 1862. It was re-established May 15, 1867 and John E. L. Harris was postmaster followed by Hamilton Willis, Jan. 25, 1870 and Jerry V. Robinson on April 19, 1871. Robinson became Belton's first postmaster on March 18, 1872 and the High Blue office was discontinued April 22, 1872.

Rural Free Delivery was started at the Belton Post Office with the establishments of Routes One and Two on Nov. 1, 1902. Regular carriers that have served these Routes are Route One: Claude Metheny, Frank L. Hogard, Edward C. Barr, John Jones, Frank Schackelford, Claude Laughlin, Edgar Hitzelberger and W. H. Holman. On Route Two; Charles Casper, William E. Lawrence, J. Orville Gochnauer, Chester Meador and Thomas Keeney.

City delivery was established at Belton on Nov. 16, 1957 with two city carriers. At the present time there are 11 serving the area.

The present post office building was occupied on Jan.



1, 1962. Before this, the post office had been located on Main Street for close to 50 years or more, first at 418 Main and then at 415 Main. Prior to that, according to old-timers, it had been located behind what is now Citizens Bank.

In 1957, the rural routes served 318 families and at present they serve 1,051 families. The post office serves a total population of approximately 14,000 people. The present force consists of a postmaster, assistant postmaster, six clerks, 11 carriers, two rural carriers and two substitute rural carriers.

Postmasters who have served the office and their appointment dates are Frank G. Robinson, March 18, 1872; James A. Powell, Sept. 9, 1875; Marcelus Gilham, July 30, 1878; Charles Heaven, April 27, 1881; Richard M. Johnson, Sept. 28, 1885; McHenry Long, Oct. 12, 1889; Richard M. Johnson, June 23, 1893; Abraham M. Johnson, July 14, 1897;



Long-time postal employees were (I to r) Chester Meador, Nelson Mullen and E. H. Hitzelberger.

Charles Casper, Dec. 14, 1903; William A. Roberts, Jan. 5, 1916; J. Orville Gochnauer, March 2, 1923; Nelson H. Mullen, Aug. 24, 1935 and Warren H. Dial, the present postmaster, Nov. 19, 1963.

Employees pictured are back row (1 to r) Warren Dial, Rollin Ashbaugh, Gary Handley, Bill Holman, Steve Smith, Bill Halterman, Alben McDonald, Front row, Lela Handley, Mildred Houston, Carol Lindley, Marvin Brewer, Carl Hudgins, Carl Nelson and Tommy Dobson. Not present were Tommy Keeney, Bill Keeney, Roy Dougan, Ernie Diamond, Wayne Moore, Woodrow Ellison and Charlene Tunnell.

Belton Fire Department

The Belton Volunteer Fire Department was organized about 1913 when the city council agreed to purchase a hand-drawn chemical engine from Eureka Fire Hose Company for a total price of \$287.56. Prior to that time Belton depended upon a bucket brigade to extinguish fires and a fire marshal whose duties were to direct the citizens in their attempt to keep fire from spreading. Many fires at that time were impossible to extinguish and the order would be given to tear the building down to keep the fire from spreading and destroying the town.

Belton's first appointed Fire Chief was C. E. Reynolds, a local grocer. Firemen were summoned by a large bell, which is now in possession of the Baptist Church. Shortly after 1930, a siren was installed on the city hall water tower to summon firemen and later they were also contacted by telephone. In recent years, additional sirens have been added and are in use today in conjunction with a modern tone-controlled alerting radio system which is used to contact firemen.

The first modern fire equipment was a hearse which was purchased to keep the hose and equipment in, and the fire chief also attached a hitch to his automobile with which to pull the chemical engine. Later, a Model T Ford fire truck was purchased and at that time was considered very modern.

In 1945, a 1923 Dodge fire truck was purchased from Mexico, Mo. It was balky, however, and when Henry Mucke was appointed fire chief in 1948, he built a fire truck from an old Chevy truck. According to Henry, it's a good thing Belton didn't have many fires for a while because the old Dodge would never start. Mucke is credited with putting the department on a paying basis.

There was no money to fix the Dodge truck, so Mucke checked with farmers within a six-mile radius and in three weeks, \$1,800 was raised. A Chevrolet truck with stock bars



George Spear, Jr. beside the truck built by Henry Mucke.

was converted to a fire truck and the pumping equipment from the old truck was bought. Mucke also built a tank for it. In the 10 years Mucke was chief, the department paid its own way. There were sometimes as many as 60 grass fires a month in those days.

In the fifties, a surplus International truck became available through a government program and was bought for around \$500. During the sixties, the International was retired. Shown with the truck at that time are (I to r) Dalhart Foster, Jun Steinbrueck, Bob Diamond, Lloyd Woodward, Kenny Woods and Ed Brunner.

Other equipment has been added through the years and Belton's department now has three pumpers, one tanker-



pumper, a rescue ambulance, utility truck and the city ambulance is operated jointly with the police and civil defense department.

The first fire station was located on Ella Street where the water dock now stands. It was later forn down and equipment was housed in the rear of city hall. On Dec. 14, 1971, voters approved a bond election to purchase the Fleetwood Chevrolet building at 223 Main Street for a new police and fire station and the move to the new quarters was completed in early 1972.

Records before 1955 are sketchy, but several damaging fires occured in Belton's early years, one in 1889 and one in 1904, both of which destroyed a good part of Main Street. In 1961, Fay Hardware Co. at 401 Main was destroyed and in 1966 the Home Lumber was seriously damaged. Records indicate that four fatalities have occured from fires in Belton.

Belton's department now consists of 24 volunteers and



Belton's first full time department member, Kirt Denkler, fire chief. A new, modern fire truck will be delivered soon. Denkler is shown beside the truck which is being custom-made for the Belton department.

Members of the department pictured are back row (1 to r) Ron Wooderson, Fred McCombs, captain; Bud Mosby, Joe Tarwater, fire prevention officer; John Wit, Neil Bangs, Bob Meador, Gerald McCombs, Don Dunn, Don Webber, Basil Frasher, Barney Cable, Dick Bell, mechanic; John Porter, Bruce Frasher, captain; Curt Huckshorn, Larry Gravitt, Kibbey George and Buck Colaw. Front row, John Hart, assistant chief; Jerry Porter, captain and Denkler. Absent when the picture was taken was Joe Kidney, assistant chief and firemen, Roy Porter, Don C. Fitzhugh and Jim Pratt.



Above left, members of the department several years ago extinguish a fire in Harry Olson's welding truck. Shown (I to r) are Paul Limpus, Dick George, Ray Batchelder, Jack Weeks and Bob Livingston. At right, the aftermath of the disastrous Fay Hardware fire. At left, Kirt Denkler, fire chief, stands beside the partially completed new fire truck.

Belton Police Department



Chief of Police - John Blum

Until January, 1958, Belton's police department consisted of a marshal, a post held by various men through the years. Some of these were Jim Lewis, Kinney Feeback, Mart Jacoby, Vernon Norris and Temple Forrest.

At that time, John Blum, who had been training overthe-road drivers since 1948 became chief of police. The department then had one police officer, one patrol car and a base station at city hall. There was no record system; no accident reports were kept.

A second patrol car was obtained in 1960 and there was

then two patrol officers. Two more police officers were hired in 1964 and a radar set was purchased. By 1966, there was a total of five officers and a breatholizer was purchased which has since proven very successful. A police station was built in the back of city hall downstairs occupying 450 square feet.

A 2740 computer was acquired in 1971, which can contact points all over the United States in a matter of seconds. It receives and sends messages and checks records of any subject in question. Ten full time officers are now employed and five patrol cars moderately equipped, are serving Belton today.

When Blum took over in 1958, Belton had a population between four and five thousand and comprised an area of four square miles. Belton's area is now 16 square miles and the population is over 12,000. Two cars are patrolling the streets, 24 hours a day. It is anticipated that by 1975, there will be 15 police officers and seven patrol cars serving Belton's every increasing population. An elaborate records system is now in effect and the new quarters of the police department at 223 Main is considered adequate for the next 15 years.

Surprising statistics indicate that in 1968, the police department handled 15,815 phone calls. In 1971, 23, 429 were received. Complaints in 1968 numbered 1,903, in 1971 the figure had jumped to 2,781; accidents in 1967 were 110, in 1971, the figure was 271. There had been one fatal accident recorded from 1967 to the end of 1971. Mileage figures for the patrol cars have gone from 65,717 miles in 1967 to 125,822 in 1971. Radio calls have gone from 1,393 in 1969 to 1,994 in 1971. The Belton ambulance answered 270 calls during its first full year of operation in 1971.

Miscellany . . .

The following articles were received too late for inclusion in their regular section or were of a nature that did not lend themselves to a particular category.

Ken's Standard Station



Ken Wyman, who was a bulk station operator for Standard Oil Company at Cawker City and Manhattan, Kans. for eight years, leased the Standard Oil Station in Belton from Mr. Hassler on Nov. 1, 1949. At that time, 71 Highway ran by the old station and although traffic was not as heavy, drivers often had trouble making the curve and a few came to rest in the station.



Wyman purchased the property from Hassler in 1954 and additional land was obtained in 1957 when the present building was built, facing west instead of north as the old one had. In the beginning the station was a one-man operation, but as Belton grew, more employees were added and in 1969, son George joined Ken in the business.

- 160 -

Calla's Beauty Salon



Calla Saultz, who had been employed at the John Taylor Beauty Salon in downtown Kansas City came to Belton in 1948 and leased the Belton Beauty Shop at 417 1/2 Main Street from Pauline and Don Hankins. When the building was sold in 1949, she went to work for the Frances Etena Beauty Salon at 110th and Hillcrest Road returning to Belton in 1957 when she opened her own shop at 408 Ella St. She is shown in front of the shop which is undergoing remodeling as this book goes to press. She has been a member of the board of Belton Community Projects, Inc., an active worker on Belton's Centennial committee and with the mother's group of Boy Scout Troop 111. She is also an active member of the National Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Assn.; the Missouri Hair Fashion committee and the Kansas City Coiffure Guild.

Belton Free Will Baptist Church

The Belton Free Will Baptist Church was organized in 1964 and for about a year held services in the American Legion Hall. Junior Ussery was pastor. Early in 1965, the congregation leased the old Christian Church and elected Rev. Jack Mc-Allister as pastor. The present property, at 215 Mill St., was bought in 1966 and the present sanctuary was built. Rev. Charles Black served as pastor until August, 1968 when the present pastor, Rev. Bill Christensen assumed the duties. He has served since then except for a few months when Rev. Dennis Bowman served.

The church at the present time has a Sunday School Bus Ministry and a membership which makes up an evangelistic, fundamental and conservative type of church. They are associated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists, supporting missionaries scattered over the world.



I REMEMBER . .

By Mary Kathryn (Keeney) Chamberlain

When this book was in its early stages, Belton residents were invited to tell us some of the things they remembered. Many came in with pictures, anecdotes, facts and stories that have been included in other sections of the book. Mary K. Chamberlain responded with a few personal written remembrances.

Mrs. Chamberlain was born in 1915 in a house that her father, Clarence Keeney, later helped Frank Hundley tear down in order to build a service station and cafe. Hundley's wife, Mary, still a resident of Belton, operated a tea room in conjunction with the service station which was on the corner of 71 Highway (now 58 Highway) and Walnut Street. Mrs. Chamberlain's husband, Mack, started in business in 1945 in that same location, and they operated there until 1961, when they built a new station at 332 North Scott. For 26 years until Mack's death in 1971, they were a part of Belton's business community. They were agents for the Crown Coach Company for five years, 1956 to 1961. Mrs. Chamberlain's grandfather, John Thomas Keeney, was a partner with J. M. Smith, before the turn of the century and later had a clock and sewing machine repair shop in the rear of the Mosely and George Furniture store.

Her father, Clarence I. Keeney, owned a transfer business

which was sold to Mart King in 1921. In the early thirties, he built houses for A. J. King Realty Co. in the Kingsland addition. In the forties and early fifties, he and her brother. Thomas H. Keeney built houses on Scott and North Avenues.

Tom Keeney was Belton's milk man before and after service in World War II, first for Turner Farm Dairy and then as owner of Belton Milk Products. He is presently a rural mail carrier on Route Two.

Mrs. Chamberlain's remembrances follow

In the twenties: "I remember . . . tent shows on Main Street at Chestnut, croquet and miniature golf; Mr. Rider's stand where you could get barbecue (about where H. & H is now on North Ave.); silent movies at the city hall theatre with Mrs. J. R. Campbell playing the piano; Mr. Bagshaw's goat tied to the Baptist Church bell rope; a complete buggy on top of the Citizens Bank building; a cow in the high school gym on Halloween; Grandview boys stealing Belton's fire truck.

In the thirties: "... graduating from high school in 1932; The Crimson Diner, famous for its good food the length of 71 Highway (and its slot machines); a dance platform in Kingsland where the music was good, floor smooth and dancing under the stars was the "in thing"; the Grace Company, which



The George D. Hope Lumber Co. in 1912. It was later the Todd Noland yard and is the present site of Benson Lumber Co. At right, Mack's Service Station on North Scott Ave. in 1962.

rescued the economy of the town; and the fire at Todd Noland's lumber yard about 1938.

In the forties: ". Saturday night on Main Street, shoppers from Raymore, Peculiar, Cleveland Stilwell and Grandview; women shopping at Belton Dry Goods while the children were at the theatre and their husbands were at the feed store, barber shop or pool hall. There was a rug on the floor and rocking chairs back by the dress racks where the women waited and visited until the men came by for them. If a man bought a pair of pants and wanted to wear them Sunday, they were altered that night while he waited. Stores didn't close until the last customer left; Temple Forrest's Ford Garage had a mechanic on duty until 10 p. m. Saturday nights.

I remember a prize winning window in a national contest. Quite an honor for a small town!

World War II boys I worked with going to war and not coming back (Glenn Jones and Vernon Norris); my brother, Tom Keeney, a prisoner of war.

Going into business in 1945; gasoline available after the war, and people lined up on both sides of our driveway waiting for gas; tourists driving miles out of their way to see Carry Nation's monument.

'During the 1951 flood in Kansas City, residents from there drove to Belton to get water to drink (we had wells and springs); Belmo Apartments, Huffman Trailer Court and the others that followed.

"Belton, growing, changing, from the small town where no one locked their doors, businessmen knew all their customers, and neighbors knew each other's family histories . . . to the present city which retains enough of the small town to attract new residents.

'I'm proud to have lived here and seen all these changes from the days when there was a "beer joint" on Main Street and the men and boys lined up and watched "all the girls go by", until the present time.

Belton's claims to fame have mostly been taken for granted by local residents, but Carry Nation, Dale Carnegie, a marrying justice of the peace and local physicians who doctored the mother and brother of a president of the United States (Doctors Gertrude and John McKee) have all been a part of its history.

Belton has not been without the normal tragedies and scandals that are a part of any town, but the last hundred years have been for the most part, ones of progress and growth and I wish my great-grandfather, Jacob Keeney, who came to this area in 1839 could see it now!"





At left, Tom Keeney in 1942. At right, Mary K. Chamberlain in 1932.





At left, the original Mack's Service Station in 1946 and at right, the famous Crimson Diner.

Manzey Q. Ashby



Manzey Quincy Ashby who was born August, 1787 and died April 1, 1873 was a resident of Montgomery County, Kentucky.

According to records, he was a large land owner in Cass County, Missouri and visited the area to look after his land interests.

On December 22, 1854, when he was 67 years old, he purchased from the United States, the eastern three-fourths of Section 14 and the western one-fourth of Section 13, Township 46, Range 33. This comprised the equivalent of a full section or 640 acres. Belton lies within this area and is the land which was purchased by George W. Scott and William H. Colbern. As mentioned on page 11, Ashby is a great-great grandfather of Barker Lane, present resident of Belton and recent city-councilman.

Belton's First Barber



Alec Ramey was Belton's first barber. He came to Belton probably in the 1870's when the railroad was being built and the town was newly founded. He married Ada Mc-Pherson of Martin City and they had eight children. Two older brothers of Alec's took over the barbershop when he retired and they operated it until about 1915. It was located at 421 Main Street. Ramey's grandson, Lee, still lives in Belton and two granddaughter's, Lela Albertson and Ethel Ferguson are residents of Kansas City.

Joe Sanders

Joe Sanders, widely-known bandleader, songwriter, singer and piano player came to Belton as a boy of five in 1897. His father worked at Hawthorne's store and his mother owned the Belton Hotel on Main Street. He was a member of some of Belton's early ball teams and went all through grade school and three years of high school in Belton before moving to Kansas City about 1910.

Playing for the Kansas City Athletic Club in the twenties, he once pitched a perfect baseball game of 27 consecutive strike-outs, a record that still stands in semi-pro ball. His brother Roy, went from playing on a Belton team to the major leagues, playing with the Cincinnati Reds and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Joe Sanders and Carleton Coon in 1919 organized the Coon-Sanders band which became nationally known through its pioneering radio broadcasts over the old WDAF Nighthawk Frolics. The first broadcast was Dec. 5, 1922 and more than 37,000 Nighthawk membership cards were issued to listeners the first year.

As a composer, his most successful song was "Beloved" written with Gus Kahn. It sold more than a million copies in sheet music. Among the hundreds of other numbers he wrote were "What a Girl, What a Night," "Martha," "Billy," and several concertos.

The Coon - Sanders band moved to Chicago and was one of the first bands to tour the country on one-night stands. Coon died in 1932 and Sanders moved to Hollywood, where he wrote screen music for two years. He returned to Chicago and formed another band, calling himself the Ole Left Hander and his band the Ducky Wuckies. He entertained at Army camps and hospitals during World War II. One of the stunts his band performed was at the opening of the San Francisco fair in 1939 when they played 5,000 feet above the city in an airplane.

Sanders, who was a member of the Belton Methodist Church died in 1965. His brother Roy died in 1949,

His widow, Gertrude, still lives in Kansas City and the Kansas City Public Library is in possession of the Sanders memorabilia as his music is considered to be representative of the jazz age of which he was a part.

The Dixie Theater



This picture came to light after the article on the theaters, which is on page 49, was completed. This is a picture of the Dixie Theater at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets before remodeling was done by Whit Mustion. The owner in the early forties, was Jim Pressly, shown here with his family. Note the ladder at right, which was used to get to the projectionist booth.

1960 to the Present

By Joe Maurer

The thirst of a city that would become more than twice as large as any other in Cass County and which would boast nearly a third of the county's population by 1970 was finally slaked after years of water shortages with the passage of a water bond issue in December, 1963 that would provide a two million gallon reservoir and a direct water book-up with Kansas City.

An overwhelming 652-101 approval of the voters clearly indicated a break with Belton's proud past that shunned close tles with the monstrous city to the north and insured its bright future. Water rationing would become a thing of the past, a thing that reared its arid head periodically for nearly one and one-half decades. The rapidly-growing City of Belton would have at least seven days water supply in the cavernous reservoir located east of Holmes Road and north of Highway 58. Previously, Belton's 75,000-gallon water tower at city hall and its 300,000-gallon tower at Deer Park could satisfy the populace for less than 24 hours in case of emergency.

The sixties and early seventies were years of accomplishment for a city that now engulfs 16 square miles within its boundaries.

Just recently, in April 1972, came the announcement that a Ramada Inn would locate west of North Scott at County Line Road. The way, of course, was paved with overwhelming approval by Belton voters of a liquor-by-the-drink ordinance in June of 1967. The passage of the ordinance in Carry Nation's resting place was a must before a complete motel could be enticed.

Belton voters waved a 610-94 flag of welcome as a line but the first motel strike hit a snag when the fish became unhooked as financing reached low tide. The site of the lost motel was to have been east of Highway 71 just south of County Line Road.

A favorite expression of Beltonites in the ensuing months was "Whatever happened to our motel?" Patiently the residents waited for another strike.

It took nearly five years of anxious waiting but the hardier sportsmen were rewarded. It should be noted that Belton's churches were instrumental in allowing a complete motel to locale in Belton. Preceding the 1967 election opposition from Belton's churches was nil, indicating the forward thinking of Belton's stable of fine ministers and pastors. Some are still with us — Richard Person, Monte Peterson, Roger Miller, Virgil Moccia, Donald Bowen. It also should be noted that the liquor-by-the-drink ordinance was restrictive in that it pertained only to such service in motels that had a restaurant serving three meals a day and that the cocktail lounge would be divorced from the restaurant.

The sixties furnished Belton with its own swimming pool



Belton's Municipal Pool



The Belton Ambulance

and its own ambulance; a comprehensive plan establishing an orderly pattern for its spirited growth; annexation of an area west of Belton that many residents looked upon as an enignua, but that now is an instrumental part of the community; an enlarged sewer plant and system that still is forthcoming with approval of federal and state matching funds; the expansion of Memorial Park to a recreation site envied by surrounding communities and a population of 12,220 according to 1970 census figures.

The seventies offered a police and fire department complex separate from its previous operations at the city hall building, a new fire truck still to be delivered that will round out the department, a back-up ambulance, the aforementioned motel and an emergency clinic.

Belton voters gave strong support of a bond proposal in February 1967 that would give residents modern swimming facilities at Memorial Park, a pool complex second to none in the immediate area. Its completion enhanced an already fine park and recreation area.

After the swimming pool approval, Belton became a leader in Cass County with its initiation of a city-based ambulance that was sparked by an editorial in The Belton Star-Herald in 1969. The installation of the state-approved vehicle came in 1970. At the suggestion of the Star-Herald, residents opened their wallets and their hearts to unified support of the project. In a little more than a year close to \$11,000 was raised and the fully-equipped van ambulance was purchased. Boy Scouts, Cirl Scouts, high school and grade school groups, civic and social organizations, businesses - and people, generous, great Belton people - raised the money. It was done by kids, young adults, mature adults and senior citizens. The unique accomplishment reached its zenith when, in 1971, the Veterans of Foreign Wars decided one ambulance is great, but two is better. The organization purchased another vehicle that has been fully equipped with money from the initial drive that gives Belton a brace of emergency vehicles.

In the mayor's seat during the early years of the past decade was William V. Powell, who first was elected to that post in 1955 when he defeated George E. Spear in his quest for a fifth term. Powell was mayor until 1961 when William J. Mosby unseated him in a bid for a fourth term. Mosby retired from office undefeated in 1965 and Robert E. Jones was Belton's mayor for two terms until 1969, Jones, seeking a third term in 1969, was beaten by J. Wayne Willey, who still holds the top office. Willey was re-elected in 1971.

The period was one of expansive building that could not have been realized unless the present water system had been initiated.

On the commercial front new buildings house Western Auto, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, North American Savings Association, H. C. Owen Lumber Company and Fleetwood Chevrolet. The Bank of Belton should be moved into its elaborate quarters by the time this book is published. A new home was built for the post office and the Belton Emergency Clinic was constructed. In June of 1972 construction of a Ramada Inn is expected to begin. The Belton Plaza Shopping Center and the Twin Oaks Shopping Center became realities.

Residentially Roger Maier and Edward B. Thomson were busy developing Countryside Manor, Hargis Gardens West, Concord Hills and Ye English Hills to name a few. Bel Ray Estates

will be forthcoming.

To keep pace with the rapid growth, another elementary school - Hillcrest - was constructed. Cambridge and Gladden (formerly Westover) were built less than five years previously. More recently, in January of 1972, a \$975,000 bond issue was approved by voters to construct the first phase of a new junior high school on Mill Street. Completion of that school is expected to bring an end to current split shifts for junior high and high school students. The split shift nightmare descended upon Beltonites for the first time in the fall of 1971.

City Hall, built in 1906 remains. An effort to construct a new municipal complex to house administrative offices, the fire and police departments and provide for a community center was defeated by voters. As an alternative, in December of 1971, voters approved an \$85,000 proposal to purchase and remodel the Fleetwood Chevrolet building to establish new quarters for the police and fire departments.

For the sake of brevity and space, the progressive sixties and early seventies has been condensed to minimal proportions, as was the chapter on the fifties. But these years can more easily be researched by future historians because records are more complete for these periods. In addition the purpose of Centennial Books is to delve into the past and to resurrect a city's beginnings into its present shape.

While Belton's past shines with accomplishments, its future will shine even brighter. Beltonites have proved they can accomplish anything they set their minds and hearts to and indications are they will continue along similar lines.

A city that exploded from a population of 1,226 in 1950 to 4,896 in 1960 to 12,220 in 1970 is bound to have suffered growing pains. But the pains will abate and an orderly growth has been instituted by Cass County's largest city.







IN THE SIXTIES . . .

Air Force Appreciation Day (above left) came to an end in the sixties, to be replaced by Community Day. Below left, Belton's W. E. (Ozzie) Osborn continued to win honors at the American Royal in Kansas City and above, Del Moody and his miniature horses were a source of wonder and amazement.

- 165 -





At top left, Mayor Wayne Willey receives the keys to the city ambulance while Chief of Police John Blum and Dr. Charles F. Yeokum, chairman of the successful amublance drive look on. At right, Elmer and Enid McKinley, a familiar sight in local parades in their old car. At left, Miss Debbie Tormanen receives the crown as Queen of Community Day festivities in 1971. Making the presentation is Cathy Carpenter, 1970 queen. Also pictured is J. Weldon Jackson, master of ceremonies and the other contestants, Cinde Tate, partially hidden; Marianne Coe and Leslie Mc-Canon. Bottom left, H. Roe Bartle, former mayor of Kansas City was a featured speaker at the annual Athletic Banquet; center, Dave Foote puts the finishing touches on a piece of fire department equipment; and at right, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Davidson of Belton who celebrated their 68th wedding anniversay in Jan. 1972.



Down Memory Lane



THIS GROUP OF OLDSTERS was taken in 1922 and was taken on the Dan Idol property on Commercial Street. They were all early settlers in Belton and played croquet together. Shown are (bottom row) Isaac Keeney, Clayton Bane, John W. Williams, W. Belford, George N. Smoot, Eli Maxwell, ?? Mercer, J. V. Robinson, Thomas Keeney, Adam Casper, Henry Long and

J. B. Hixon. On the top row, Thomas H. Calvert, Isaac Holloway, H. S. Turner, William Downing, A. J. Walker, J. W. Snider, J. P. Stansberry, Charles W. Eaton, George W. Scott, R. M. Johnson, E. M. Bailey and John B. Powell. The boys in the back row are (first) James A. Lewis, (second) Clarence (Tucky) Reynolds, and the other two boys are unidentified.



PLAYING ON THE BELTON BASEBALL TEAM about 1910 was this group of young men. Still living are Jim Campbell, of Belton and Ernie (Bolivar) Wales of Harrisonville. Shown back row (1 to r) are Fred Burkhart, Bill Alderson, Clyde Balding, Charles Smith, Harold Kreigh, Merl Hundley, Russell Mullen, Ganderburk, (the Christian Church minister), Artie Crouch, Christy McCullough, Ernie Wales, Roy Sanders, (who played pro ball for Cincinnati and Pittsburg), Skeets Samples, Sam Berry, Jim Campbell, Charley Wales, Sam Roberts and Allen Mullen.

THE BLAIR LINE

Will sell tickets Monday Sept. 16. 85 cents for round trip on account of Ringling Bros. circus at Kansas City.

C. F. Killinger has just completed a large job of stonework on the Mastin Ranch. Mr. Killinger has done a great deal of work in his line of business and is a reliable stone mason.

Hydraulic Cider Press!-I have my cider press in excellent working order and will be open for business ou Tuesday of each week, until after September the 15th., after which time I will also run on Saturday al well as Tuesday until further notice. I will keep barrels for sale at the mill. The press is located on my farm one mile south of Belton. C. A. BURNE.

1895

THE MEMPHIS ROUTE

Will sell tickets Monday Sept. 16 85 cents for round trip on account of Ringling Bros, circus at Kansas City.

A party of reckless young men Are went to Kansas City Sunday on ne excursion train returned at night drunk and disorderly light was broken in Lucus' jewelry store, ornamental creeting was torn from the awning over Miss Latie Kreigh's millinery store, much loud obsucing and profine language was uttered and a horse stolen Unless these worthies can be curbed greater offences are to be expected.

S. C. Idol and Ray Berry lett Monday for the new town of Appalachia, in Oklahoma, where they are to find employment on a newspaper to be published at that place by Frank Armstrong and Price Glenn. Over 3000 lots have been sold in the new town but no buildings are yet breeted except a bank. The location of the town is near the mouth of the Cimmarron river and its eligible situation in a rich tarming country is expected to insure its upbuilding with great rapidity.

Mr. L. M. Crouch returned from a visit to homefolks in Kentucky, the past week, Monday Mr. Crouch opened a law office in the Atkinson building over P. W. Oldham's Hardware store. He is a welcome addition to Belton society. 1895

Dr. Garnett is taking the initiative of putting down flegstone sidewalk. The walk is along all his lots fronting on Maple street. J. T. Carr 18 laying the walk.

J. W. Itarrelson slepped a train load of 16 cars of fat cattle to Chicago Saturday and obtained \$4.20 per hundred pounds for them. There were 305 head in the lot.

Mrs. Thou. G. Barton and her lovely and accomplished daughter Mies Maude, of Weston, arrived Saturday evening and have been guests all this happy week, of their uncle Col. R. M. Johnson and relatives in Belton and vicinity. The ladies will continue their visit for several days yet and should be extended every courtesy and favor; but, when it is remembered that their kinsman Col, Johnson is also a native of the kingdom of Platte and bath a courtesy equal to Lancelot or Galahad, as the case may be, there should be no sort of doubt that they will be made to feel happy and altogether joyful under his hospitable roof and will renew their welcome visit many times as the years go by. 1895

dispiday at mean J. W. Berry glanced through his kitchen door in to his back yard and found that an outhouse was in flames. Thinking that his son Sam was in the house he rushed out, pushed the door in and was in the midst of the flames before he had time to consider any bazard than that of the boy. His mustache, hair and eyebrows were slight. ly singed and he was considerably scorched before he could escape from the fire. The outhouse was envel in flames and the barn caught on fire also but C A Moore, E E. Hawtherne, John Schwanke and others were soon on the ground with butkets of water and put the fire out Timely work with ready buckets of water saved the barn and probably the smoke house and dwelling. 1903

240 Pound Pigs.

With corn above 50 cents hogs car their heads off very quickly, takes two or three months to get on full The hog that feed never brings you a profit

When you are ready to put your shouls on feed, begin with the B. A. Thomas Hog Medicine. Use regularly and watch your shoats round out into fat hogs in nine months-hogs going well over 200 pounds and as high as 240 pounds. Pigture the average feeding and you will see why the B, A. Thomas medicine is a good investment. Try feeding out your bogs on this plan and if you are not more than leased, we will refund the cost of the

BELTON COAL & FEED CO.

The Cass County News is so ably (?) edited, so full of good (?). sound (?), broadminded (?), patri-Mrs. March and Mrs. Husechaperoned the Camp Fire Girls journalism of all contemporary
chaperoned the Camp Fire Girls journalism of all contemporary
arrisonville July 4. Rain win a crown of decayed of decayed of decayed of the contemporary otic (?) commensense (?) that it is chaperoned the Camp Fire Grand State of the C the despair of all contemporary

DR. J. GUY BAILEY. Dental Surgeon. Office over the Bana of Belton. 1916

Belton High School Band --- 1971 - '72



BAND MEMBERS: Jacquie Jackson, Brenda Morris, Sandy Witt, Janice Keller, Patty Burke, Susan Nodine, Sandy Wright, Barbara Klaus, Johnna Kolesar, Betty Dorsey, Beverly Bonham, Regina Reno, Doronda Hillis, Sandra Keeth, Becky Dale, Sherry Fleming, Linda Buck, Kathy Maurer, Randy Knippa, Cindy Boydston, Janell Chadbourne, Joy Offutt, Debbie Ray, Richelle Person, Anita Ford, Terri Jenkins, Denise Turner, Kathy Gore, Linda Simpson, Debbie Hendrix, Vicki Lindberg, Gail Carothers, Brenda Laffoon, Vicky Goodall, Linda Gilbert, Melody Davidson, Vinnie Hammond, Susie Swaffer, Pam Barnes, Curtis Tinkey, Rex Hainey, Kevin McCartney, Patty

Ayers, Tim Cox, Glenda Floyd, Richard Curvey, Randy McKee, Ron Martz, Chris Wood, Phillip Phyler, Laloni Rice, Randy Neil, Denise Lindsay, David Simpson, John Powell, Chris Beever, Kevin Burke, Pat McKarnin, Kirk Perkins, Albert Hill, Robert Kelsey, Joey Looney, Jim Bradford, Don Brown, Mike Baker, Steven Holle, Bud Lager, David Doherty, Kenny Thomas, Gloria Hunholz, Ken Stone, Bob Hudgins, Micke Kickerson, Ed Porter, Mark McFarland, Ken McCutcheon, Jerry Warren, Ernest Kary, Curt Shields, Gary Boler and Janet Conditt.



Years ago Willard and Reba Huggins had their picture taken in front of the old African Church on Ella St.



Wyatt's Service Station which used to be on Old 71 Highway.



The original George W. Scott home as it looks today on Spring St.



Paul Wyatt cuts the ribbon which officially opened the Lamar Airport (Now Villnave) in 1952.

1971-72 FOOTBALL TEAM



L-R — Bottom Row - Larry Lewis, Dennis Lamons, Bob Dehnert, Rex Hainey, Jay Helland, Marc Sportsman, Craig Conklin, Steve Hays, Eugene Wright, John Downs, Mike Baker; Row 1 - Tom Greenwell, Dean Rasmussen, David Davis, Dan White, Mike Valdepena, Bob Davidson, Mike Earhart, Mike McDonough, Dave Nagel, Don Miller, Mike Boston, Randy Shepherd; Row 2 - William Dusseschleger, Keith Parks, Barry Haskins, Gary Sowell, Richard Hammond, Bill Utterback, Jim Webber, Tony Taylor, James Gammil, Jim Massiongale, John Shern, Ron Wright, Jerry King. Row 3 - Kirk Perkins, Lee Padget, Dean Ferarro, Steve Anderson, Terry Jenkins, Tim Spartz, David Simpson, Randy Houseman, Steve Campbell, Jim Bradford; Top row - Jim McKnight, Richard Railey, Clif Kelly, Jack Brewster, Tim Renken, Randy Burke, Ron Martz, Mark Jones, Tom Regan, Dennis Schnell, Dan Raines, Randy Norcross, Kevin Burke, Don Raines.

Credits



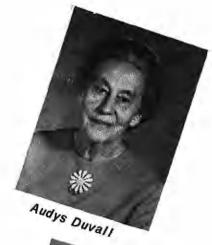




Leo Mosby



Kathleen Barnes







Margie Dimick



Dorothy Looney

MARGIE MC KINLEY DIMICK created all of the original art work found in the book. One of the fourth generation of McKinleys to live here, she is a 1943 graduate of Belton schools. At the banquet of the National 4-H Club Conference in Chicago in 1943, she presided as Mistress of Ceremonies.

DOROTHY MC KINLEY LANE, another of the fourthgeneration McKinleys, she painstakingly researched and wrote the articles on the Indians, the railroads and Carry Nation, among others.

AUDYS DUVALL, who researched and wrote the section on Belton's schools, retired this spring after teaching in the elementary grades here since 1955.

MARGARET WADE assembled many of the family histories,

She is active in the Cass County Historical Society and enjoys delving into the area's past.

WILLIAM V. (Bill) POWELL has been active in civic matters throughout his 31 years in Belton and served as mayor from 1961 to 1965. Due to his efforts, the review of Belton in the fifties appears.

MAURINE WYATT assembled the information about the decade of the 30's. After 17 years of teaching in Belton schools, she retired in 1970 to the farm where she and her husband, George, have lived for 24 years.

LEO MOSBY, a life-long Belton resident, has been a leader in the summer baseball program for 17 years, and is presently a member of the city council. He investigated and

wrote of activities during the forties.

WELDON JACKSON, born in Belton, in reminiscing about the years of the twenties, found much to recall. He is president of Citizens Bank of Belton and participates actively in numerous civic organizations and projects which have always been of interest to him.

DOROTHY LOONEY recorded and transcribed the recollections of Jim Lewis and summarized the history of the Belton Fair Association and the theaters among others. Having taught English in the Belton schools in the late forties and fifties, she has been active since that time in civic undertakings.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION to Charles Hight, Sr., of Hight and Associates, Land Title, Inc., of Harrisonville, Mo., for his assistance and use of his records and office in checking land transfers.

JOE AND DODIE MAURER have been residents of Belton for nine years. Joe is editor of The Belton Star-Herald and recapped the fifties and the sixties. Dodie did the general editing, rewrite and layout of the book.

KATHLEEN YOUNG BARNES, a long-time Belton resident, and whose grandfather, James Hickman Young was one of Belton's early settlers. She is responsible for "A Nostalgic Walk Down Main Street," a look at the years 1900 to 1920.

DELORIS PERSON AND MARY BERTOLINO, the former contacted all the local churches and the latter researched the section on Belton's city government.

TO ALL THE MEMBERS of the Belton Centennial Historical Committee, who have contributed time and energy towards the publication and distribution of this book, a grateful and heartfelt thanks.

A SPECIAL THANKS to all the wonderful people of Belton. whose pictures and remembrances have gone into these pages. Aside from the pictures submitted in connection with family histories and those supplied for the section on Belton's business community special thanks go to the following: Grace Wilson Van Brunt, Lucy Wilson Dunlap, Mrs. Arthur James, Mrs. Frank Green, Cicero Taylor, Dick George, Elizabeth Jones, Hazel Groh, Maxine Hankins, Audys Duvall, Jo Sitlington, Minnie Zumwalt, Glenn Harrison, Mary K. Chamberlain, Nancy Wright, Mary Alice Yaeger, Mary Catherine Sams, Mildred Pugh, Maurine Wyatt, Minnie Wyrick, Clarence Ashbaugh, Thaisa Stidham, W. B. Huggins, Howard Huggins. Mrs. Ted Beeghly, Ed Greenwell, Jean Cunningham, Mrs. Verl Bower, Mildred Walton, Wilma Crawford, Weldon Jackson, Harry Meador, Alex Diamond, Mary Pitts, Martha Peacock, Kathleen Barnes, Fred Lininger, Bill Houston, Mae Webb, Pauline Houston, Hazel Jacoby, Mrs. John Perry, ElmoStump, E. S. Wilhite, Herman Weeks, Jan Foland, Ethel Seba, Frankie Stark, Mrs. Florence Catlin, Mrs. Wayne Harris, Helen Henderson, Pauline Mosby, Bernice Weadock, Margaret Wade, The Belton Star-Herald, Dorothy Lane, Dorothy Looney, Gladys Pennington, Laura Turner, Mrs. C. K. Frank, Wallace Blair, Chester Saultz, Don Ryden, Carol Quick, Bill Davidson. Frances Sharp, Jim Miller, Lucille Savage, Rommie Pitts, Cora Pitts Troxell, W. D. Harrison, Mrs. A. D. Elkins, Mildred Houston, Mary Hundley, Evelyn Ramey, Enid Olson and Sam Feeback. To any, we may have inadvertantly omitted, our apologies and our thanks.

Centennial Celebration Mementos

Centennial Celebration Mementos



Index to Families

Alderson	Idol
Ashbaugh	
Barr	Jackson
Blair	Jacoby
Briant	Johnson
Bright	Jones
Campbell	Keeney
Casper	Keeney
Crouch	Kerr
Daulton	Killinger
Dodson — Jeter — White	Kinnison
Downing — Harrison	Lamar
Dye — Boren	March
Evans	Meador
Feeback	McKinley
Garnett	Middleton - Lininger
	Mullen
George	Oldham — Campbell
Gilmore — Dehoney — Bradford 2F	Reid
Gregg	Reynolds
Groh	Roberts
Hamilton	Robinson — Dunlap
Hargis	
Harrelson	Rosier
Harrison	
Hawthorne	Shouse
Henderson	Sprinkle
Higgins	Taylor — Pitts
Hockaday	Twente
Holloway	Wilson
Houston	Wingert , 6F
Huber	Wyatt
Huggins	Young

Harrelson





Nathan E. Harrelson

Frank Harrelson Scott

One of the original organizers of Cass County (formerly Van Buren) was Nathaniel Ector Harrelson. Born Jan. 10, 1807 in Caswell County, N. C., he was the eldest son of a family of five sons and two daughters born to Jeremiah and Martha Bracken Harrelson.

In 1825, four years after Missouri was admitted to the Union, the Harrelsons came to the new state, settling first in Lafayette County and then in Jackson County at Fort Sibley, At this time western Missouri was sparsely settled and farms were scattered.

Nathaniel married Maleta West of Simpson County, Ky.





Mr. and Mrs. James West Harrelson

on Sept. 10, 1831. She was the daughter of James West and his wife Mourning Howard. West was a professor of Greek at Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky.

Realizing the needs of the farmers and the advantage of supplying these needs by trade, Nathaniel in 1834, equipped with a wagon a team of oxen, engaged in the exchange of goods for stock of all kinds, furs and other commodities over the vast new territory. By 1835 he was a partner in the mercantile business in Pleasant Hill with a relative, W. W. Wright. Later he bought the Younger Ferry and land on the Missouri

River near Randolph and started a store. He helped organize the town, sold lots, did a thriving business and purchased a farm of 900 acres. He came to a farm near Belton in 1845, which remained his home until his death Jan. 18, 1893,

He went to California in 1849 expecting to prospect for gold but instead supplied the miners with equipment and living commodities. Successful in this venture he sold out in 1851 and returned to Missouri.

Assisted by his sons, James West and William Howard, he began freighting for the government to Sante Fe, N. M. in 1854. When he disposed of his teams, he began dealing in and raising mules and entering land from the government. At the time of his death, he was known as one of the largest land owners in Missouri. When the Frisco railroad was surveyed through land owned by him and his son, James West, they were able to establish a livestock shipping yard near their farms which was known as Harrelson Station and was used for many years.



The James West Harrelson home, still standing on West North Ave.

Harrelson was another victim of Order No. 11. Forced to leave his home, he took his family and his slaves who remained loyal, overland to Texas, settling in Austin for the duration. When they returned to Belton, they found their home completely destroyed. He rebuilt and improved what he had left. A colonial mansion and other buildings were built, the house from bricks which were made on the farm.

He went to Colorado in the spring of 1865 with a large herd of cattle and located near Cocheco Springs where he established a ranch, before returning again to Cass County.

Besides James West and William Howard, the Harrelsons were the parents of Amanda Minerva, John Bracken and Martha who died in infancy.

Harrelson was a member of the Belton Baptist Church. He presented the church with its first organ and a bell which was used for many years to call the members to church and to alarm the town when fire was discovered.

He and his wife, who died Sept. 28, 1880 are buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

James West Harrelson who was born in Jackson County, Mo., on March 6, 1836 married Olivia Fulkerson in November, 1868. She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Fulkerson of Lafayette County. Olivia died soon after giving birth to Nathan Olivia on Sept. 3, 1869.

James married Sarah Ann Shelton, daughter of Col. Henry Winston Shelton of Cabell County, Va., on May 7, 1872, and they settled on a farm near Belton. He had purchased 2,000 acres adjacent to his father's land in 1870. He engaged in grazing, feeding and dealing with cattle, handling 500 to 600 head a year for market. The Harrelson's were the parents of nine children, two of whom died in infancy. The others were Maleta West, Frank Shelton, Sarah Wilson, Annie, Helen, Lena and

Martha Bracken (Mrs. Arthur D. James of Kansas City).
Nathan O. Harrelson became head surgeon of Trinity
Lutheran Hospital in Kansas City.

James West turned the management of his farm over to his son Frank Shelton in 1895 and moved to Belton where he lived until his death, May 28, 1904. Sarah Shelton Harrelson

died Aug. 11, 1971, Howard and Martin were children of John Bracken Harrelson another son of Nathaniel and Maleta West Harrelson.

died Feb. 18, 1937. Both are buried in Belton Cemetery. Fen.

Harrelson of Santa Monica, Calif., Alma Harrelson Kitt, who

Casper

Charles Casper was born in Independence, Mo. in 1873 and came to Belton as a very young boy with his parents, Margaret and Adam Casper.

Grace Bivens was born in 1876, in Clinton County, Missouri and she moved to Belton as a small child with her widowed mother, Mrs. Lizzie Bivens.

Charles Casper and Grace Bivens were married in 1896, after both had received their education in the Belton school.

When he was 19, Charles opened a barber shop, was later a rural mail carrier and was appointed Post Master of Belton during the administration of William Howard Tart, He served in that post for 8 years. Later he worked for Citizens Bank, A. Rosier and Co., and Kratz Dry Goods Store, retiring in 1950.

He served about 18 years on the school board, was an elder in Presbyterian Church, and both he and his wife belonged to numerous lodges. The Caspers had six children: Carl Bivens Casper, who died in 1971, Fay Brawner, Maurice Walden, Margaret Casper, who died in infancy, Grace Etta Runyon and Don Casper.

The surviving family all live in Kansas City.

Grace Bivens Casper died in 1934 and Charles Casper died in 1969.

Gilmore - Dehoney - Bradford

Joseph Gilmore, his wife Mary, daughters, Elizabeth and Belle and some 20 slaves migrated from near Lexington, Ky. to Cass County, Mo. in 1848. They located on 200 acres of land three miles east of where Belton was later founded. He built a home on a high knoll which became a stopping place for travelers going west.

In 1855 Elizabeth married Simeon V. Dehoney who had migrated from Kentucky to Raytown, Mo. in 1848. Joseph Gilmore built a home for them a quarter of a mile east of the family home and gave them a household slave as a wedding present.

When the Civil War started Gilmore took all his slaves except for household servants to New Orleans and leased them out. They were lost when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. During the war the Gilmore home was borned either by Federal troops or Jayhawkers but the Dehoney house was not touched.

The Gilmore and Dehoney families, being Southern sympathizers, were forced to leave Cass County under Order Numher 11 and spent the last year of the war in Clay County. Both families returned after the war and the Gilmore home was rebuilt.

Joseph Gilmore died in 1876. Shortly after, his wife, Mary moved to Belton and lived with her younger daughter Belle who had married Buena Vista Robinson and established a home near where the A&P store now stands. She remained there until her death in 1890.

After Joseph Gilmore's death, Simeon and Elizabeth Dehoney left the home place and moved to Belton, building a home on the east end of Main St. Simeon opened a grocery store in the building now occupied by the Dryden Drug Co. and operated it until 1900.

Simeon and Elizabeth had eight children, four boys and four girls. Only three, Joseph B., Thomas B., and Sallie E. survived through early childhood. Thomas was killed in a railway accident at the age of 25. Joseph lived to a ripe old age and died in Wichita, Kans., after a career with the Sante

Fe Railroad. Sallie, their youngest daughter born in 1872, attended Belton schools and was one of the early graduates of Belton High School.

Elizabeth died in 1907 and Simeon in 1909.

John R. Bradford and Selena G. Garland were born in 1845 in Summerset England. They married in 1866, and emigrated to America, purchasing a farm near Lee's Summit, Mo. They had two children; William J., born in 1868 and Rhoda born in 1870. They sold the Lee's Summit farm in 1870 and purchased land a few miles west of Belton, across the state line in Kansas. Soon after moving John contacted pneumonus and died. Two years later Selena married Jacob White. They had six children, two boys and four girls.

In 1888 they sold the farm in Kansas and moved to Belton where Selena lived until her death in 1904. In the meantime William J. Bradford had taken his younger sister Rhoda to England to live with relatives and she remained there.

William Bradford married Sallie Dehoney in 1895. He established a home in Drexel, Mo. He had an insurance agency and published the local weekly newspaper. While Sallie was on a visit to her parents in Belton in 1898, their only child, Gilmore G. was born. Soon after, William sold his interests in Drexel and joined Simeon Dehoney in the grocery store in Belton. Their home was on Commercial St. In 1900 when Simeon retired he sold the store to Bradford. He operated it alone for several years, then sold it and opened a real estate and insurance agency. He opened another grocery store in 1916 in the building now occupied by Dryden Drug Co. and operated it for six years, the first two in partnership with Charles Reed. He sold the home on Commercial St. in 1909 and purchased a home and two acres of land where the A&P Store now stands. This remained his home for 50 years until his death in 1960 at the age of 92,

The Bradfords were active in religious, fraternal, civic and political affairs. He was a life long member of the Baptist Church and was active in the Masonic Lodge, the Odd Fellows

and the Woodmen of the World. He served as mayor of Belton in 1906, 07, 08, 23, 24, 35, 36, 38, 39 and 1940. He also served as Associate Judge on the Cass County Court in Harrisonville for two term, 1929 through 1932. She served as Sunday School teacher in the Baptist Church for 10 years and was active in the Eastern Star, Rebeckah's, Royal Neighbors and the Dorhpa Club. She died in 1939.

Gilmore Bradford attended Belton public schools and the University of Missouri at Columbia. During summers at the University he served as platform superintendent for Redpath Chautaquas. When finished at the University he went to the Philippines for two years. He was a high school teacher in northern Luzon the first year. The second year he was principal of schools in Jolo, Sulu. When he returned to the United States he joined the Frigidaire Corp. in Dayton, Ohio. For seven years he traveled throughout Asia and the Near East introducing Frigidaire, which was then a new product. He married Lometa Mooney in Kobe, Japan in 1933, About this time

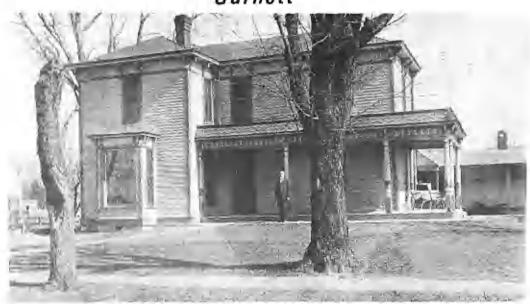
General Motor Corp., owner of the Frigidaire Corp., took over the export of Frigidaire products and began to market them through its branches abroad. Bradford was appointed manager for Frigidaire in the China territory in 1935. He and his wife. established a home in Shanghai until 1939 when he was transferred to Tientsin as North China manager for General Motors.

After a home leave in 1941, Mrs. Bradford was not permitted to return to China with her husband because of the tense political situation in the Far East. He returned alone in October of that year and was stationed in Hong Kong and was there when the city fell to the Japanese on Christmas Day, 1941. He was a prisoner of the Japanese until August 1942, when he was included in the first prisoner exchange and returned to the United States on the M. S. Gripsholm.

He returned to Asia for General Motors after the war, first as Sales Manager and later as Managing Director of its operations in several countries. Since his retirement in 1961, he and his wife have maintained homes in Hot Springs, Ark., and

Boca Raton, Fla.

Garnett



Dr. T. T. Garnett, in front of his home on Second Street

Dr. T. T. Garnett was one of Belton's first physicians. He began his practice here in 1872 when the town's population was less than fifty persons.

Born on Nov. 4, 1846 in Culpepper county, Virginia, he studied medicine at the University of Missouri but was later graduated from the University of Virginia. He married Armede Scott in 1872. They were charter members of the First Baptist Church here, Dr. Garnett served as the town's mayor, a director and president of the Bank of Belton, and a member and president of the school board.

After he gave up his practice of medicine, he became the druggist here and had the drug store for many years. He died July 24, 1927 at the age of 80,

Richard E. George, of E. K. George and Son's, is a grandson of Dr. Garnett.

George

John E. George, the ninth of ten children of James W. George and Fanny Brooker George, was born in Shelbyville, Ky., Aug. 7, 1843. The family moved to Texas in 1860. He served in the Confederate Army in Col. Ireland's regiment under his brother Capt. W. S. George, At the close of the war he moved to Kansas City, where he was married to Sallie Gill, May 11, 1871. They had four children: E. K. George who later married Jess Carnett and owned E. K. George Funeral Home, Belton; J. F. George, who married Laura Hawthorne and lived in Belton; Mrs. W. S. Hocker of Kansas and Mamie George

who died at the age of 10.

Sallie George died Dec. 17, 1887. John George moved to Slater, Mo. in 1889 and later moved back to the Belton area to a farm northwest of Belton now known as the McLaughlin farm on Holmes Road. On May 23, 1891 John George and Rose Willis were married and one daughter, Mayme was born to them July 12, 1892. The family moved to Belton in 1911 where John died in 1920 and Rose in 1936.

A son of E. K., Richard George carries on the family business today.

Hockaday



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ernest Hockaday December, 1948

The Hockaday family first arrived in Jamestown, Va., in 1647 from England. They were pioneers in Virginia and Kentucky, and migrated westward to Missouri in 1833 when George Edmund Otey Hockaday (1805-1885) and his wife, Laura Catherine Hart (1817-1892) settled in Callaway County. He was engaged in farming and stock raising until his death. He served one term as representative in the state legislature and was also county judge and sheriff of Calloway County.

His son, Charles Stuart Hockaday (1840-1921) served in the Federal army during the Civil War, and then moved to Cass County in 1863 where he also became a farmer. In 1870, he married Salena Ellen Young (1853-1919). He was elected county judge in 1878 and served in that office for four years. He was again elected judge of the county court in 1902. During both terms, he served as presiding judge. He also served as justice of the peace of Union Township for many years.

Caroline Abbot Stanley, author of the book "Order No. 11" was a first cousin of C. S. Hockaday.

The C. S. Hockadays had four sons who were long time residents of Cass County. They were Charles Ernest (1872-1959), Thomas Otey (1875-1967), Leon Melville (1881-1957), and Roy Francis (1888-1958).

In 1903, Charles Ernest Hockaday married Bertha A. Fritz (1871-1950). She was the daughter of Fred and Elizabeth Phillips Fritz, and was born on a farmeight miles southwest of Belton on which her parents had settled in 1866, coming here from Mercersburg, Pa.

After their marriage, the Ernest Hockaday's moved to Kirksville, Mo., where he operated a shoe store in partnership with M. E. Halcomb. The family moved to Harrisonville, Mo., in 1905 where the Halcomb and Hockaday firm bought a clothing store. After five years, Halcomb purchased his partner's interest, and in 1910, the Hockadays moved to the family farm south of Belton where they resided nearly 36 years.

Ernest Hockaday attended Missouri University at Columbia as a young man and taught in several rural schools over Cass County and in the Harrisonville High School. He was always active in civic and community affairs.

The Ernest Hockadays became parents of five children, They are Mrs. Elizabeth Starner of Belton; Mrs. Katharine Hankins, formerly of Belton and now of San Juan, Tex.; Mrs. Ernestine Powell of Belton; Mrs. Harriett Bishop of Englewood, Colo.; and Charles Fritz Hockaday, who still resides on the family farm southwest of Belton.

March

James L. March was born in Jasamine County, Kentucky, in 1836. He was the son of George and Mary Gregg March and came with his parents to Missouri in 1844. The family settled in St. Louis County, where they bought a farm. In 1855 they sold their farm and moved to Jackson County, George died that same year. James stayed at home until 1858, when he went West driving a team of oxen to old Sante Fe, New Mexico.

He returned to Missouri ten years later in 1868 and bought a farm of 160 acres south and west of Belton. He married Mary Dobbins, a native of Missouri in 1872. Three children were born before Mary's death in 1881, James D., Susan Ella and William G.

James married Pearl Patterson of Marshall, they are both now deceased. Susan Ella married Charles Blair of Belton, now both deceased. William married Pearl Short of Lincoln, Ill. William is deceased.

James and his wife had no children. Susan Ella and Charles had three boys born to them, James Wallace, Charles Lawrence (deceased) and Julian D. William and Pearl Short March had two daughters, Theo and Fannie March Riley (deceased). Theo and Mrs. Pearl March live in Kansas City.

James March married as his second wife, Sarah Creggar in 1895 and to the couple, a daughter, Frances, was born. Sarah died in 1901 and James March and Frances moved to live with his brother, Wallace March and his mother Mrs. Mary A. Sexton. Frances was reared and received her education in the Belton schools, she now lives in Los Angeles, Calif. Mr.



Susan Ella Blair



James L. March

March continued to live in the family home until it was destroyed by fire. He then built a home on the southwest corner of Mill and Colbern streets in Belton, where he lived until his death in 1923.

Bright

Samuel Bright, a farmer of Mt. Pleasant Township two miles west and two miles south of Belton, was born in Canada in 1829. He was the son of Michael and Rosana Bright, natives of Germany. In 1860 he married Anna C. Swan in Grundy County, III., where Bright was living for a time. They came to Johnson County, Kans. in 1865 where he

farmed until the death of his wife in 1879. He moved to Cass County in 1880 and bought 200 acres in section 20 southwest of Belton. He married Ella Pose daughter of E. Z. and Rebecca McDorman Ross in 1881. They had two sons Fred Charles and Henry Lewis. The elder son farmed the land and raised cattle on the same farm after the death of his father.

Dodson - Jeter - White



Mr. and Mrs. Greenup Berry Dodson



Matilda White Jeter, James A. White, Sallie Jeter, Milton Star White

The Berry Pitman Dodson family moved to a farm four miles south of Belton in 1875 from a farm in Jackson County between Dodson and Dallas, Mo. B. P. Dodson had come to Westport Landing in the 1840's as a boy with his parents, Greenup and Verlina Dodson, from St. Charles, Missouri. Greenup was a direct decendent of Daniel Boone and the family had moved west with the Boone clan. B. P. and brother James were drivers on the Sante Fe Trail in their youth.

The children of Berry Pitman and Maria Matney Dodson were Charles, Greenup Berry, Fredrick M., Lucinda, and Faustina. Greenup B. Dodson married Edna Earl Jeter whose grandfather was Col. William Allen White.

Col. William Allen and Sarah White came to Cass County from Bedford, Virginia, in the early 1840s. Between 1853 and 1857 Col. White purchased 1500 acres of land from the government. The land lay south of what is now Belton.

During the Civil War, Col. White served under Gen. Price. His family was burned out of their home under Gen. Ewing's Order Number Eleven. For a time the ladies and children of the family returned to Virginia where Col. White's daughter Matilda Jane met Capt. T. W. Jeter, who was with Lee through out the war and at the time of surrender at Appomattox. They later married in 1873 in the White home that had been rebuilt and is yet occupied five miles south of Belton.

The children of the marriage of Tinsley White and Matilda Jeter were Sarah Ann, Edna Earl and Tinsley. Edna Earl Jeter married Greenup Berry Dodson in 1897. The children of this marriage were Irene, who died in Infancy; Marie, who is now Mrs. C. R. Meador of Belton; Faustina, who is now Mrs. C. L. Ray of Raytown, Mo.; Albery LeRoy, who is married to Jane Turner of Belton and now living in Leawood, Kans. Mrs. Edna Jeter Dodson at the age of 96, is living in a nursing home in Grandview, Mo.



Berry P. and Maria Matney Dodson Lucinda Muir (standing)

Wingert

Johnathan Wingert and Cordelia A. Burr were married in Franklin Grove, Lee County, Ill. and had five children. Columbus, Byron (1851), William, Florence and Mary Belle (1855).

Wingert went to California in the gold rush of 1849 by way of Cape Horn and returned overland. During the Civil War he was a carpenter and bridge builder. The Wingerts were Illinois Dunkards which indicated they were opposed to the Civil War and in fact any war. Finding a coil of rope on his front doorstep, Wingert knew he was out of harmony with his neighbors, the more especially since he usually voted Democratic. The incident prompted a move from Illinois about 1862 to northeast Cass County, Mo. where they lived in a log cabin. The story is told that when Byron was about 12 years old he was attending a celebration at school in which those present cheered for Lincoln, Sherman and Sheridan. Suddenly, young Byron arose and shouted, Hip! Hip! Hurrah! three cheers for Jefferson Davis. Instinctively the entire audience cheered, then stopped suddenly. The school board met on the spot and expelled Byron from school. They asked him what had possessed him. Byron answered "Isn't Jefferson Davis a big man in the war too?"

Byron married and lived in Kansas City, He worked 25 years for the Santa Fe Railroad and 30 years for the Swift Packing plant before his death in 1942.

Mary Bell Wingert taught school in Belton 1875-76. She was married to A. R. C. Sloan in March 1876. Sloan was born in Otterville, Mo. When he was 20, in 1862, he enlisted in the Missouri Militia. Two years later the militia was taken

into the U.S. Army and Sloan was a teamster, freighting army supplies with a six-mule team. Six mouths after the close of the war, he left the Army and purchased a farm west of Belton and east of the Johnson County, Kansas Line.

A daughter, Cordelia Jane was born Jan. 19, 1877. The Sloans moved to Kansas and five boys and another daughter was born. Mary Bell died in 1889 and was boried in the Valley Brook cemetery south of Overbrook, Kans. Sloan moved to the Texas panhandle in 1900 died in 1925 and was buried at Stratford, Texas.

Cordelia Jane taught school in Kansas, Indian Territory (Okla.) and Texas. She died July 23, 1966 at Dalhart, Tex., where she was buried. An historic plaque was dedicated to her memory July 1971 at Dalhart where she lived. Inscribed on the plaque is the following: "Mrs. Cordelia Sloan Duke, 1877-1966. Chronicler of a unique era in the history of the southwest. Born in Belton, Mo. at 17 taught school in the Indian Territory (Okla.) In 1907 married Robert L. Duke, a ranch hand who had risen to division manager of the XIT Ranch (then the world's largest). In addition to her own family, she 'looked after' the 150 cowboys who worked the 3,000,000 acre spread. Kept a diary of everyday ranch life around her and successfully encouraged 81 others to do likewise. Thus was preserved an authentic account of a passing phase of American life — the cowboy and his work."

Cordelia Sloan Duke with the assistance of Dr. Joe B. Frantz of the history department of the University of Texas is the author of the book "6,000 Miles of Fence", published in 1961 by the University of Texas Press . . . Berniece Sloan Crandall, great-granddaughter of J. Wingert,

Crouch





Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Milton Crouch, Sr.

Leslie Milton Crouch, was born Dec. 28, 1872 near Warsaw, Gallatin County Ky., a son of Henry Elijah and Mary Ann (Connely) Crouch, grandson of Elijah and Sarah (Lady) Crouch, and great-grandson of Jesse Crouch, Revolutionary soldier, and his wife Mary Nance. The family migrated from Virginia to Washington County, Tenn., and Elijah Crouch moved on to Gallatin County, Ky. Mary Ann Connely was a daughter of Granville Milton and Harriet H. (Conner) Connely, grand-daughter of Thomas and Mary Connely who had migrated from Augusta County, Va., to Boone County, Ky.

Leslie Crouch attended elementary school in Warsaw, Ky., high school in Carrollton, Ky., then Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. where he graduated with an LLB Degree in 1894. His uncle, Charles Connely, owned a farm immediately north of Belton, now part of the air base. He urged his young nephew to settle in Cass County. Crouch was admitted to the Cass County Bar, Jan, 8, 1895 and opened an office in Pleasant Hill for about six months, then moved to Belton. He later formed a partnership with the late James



The Crouch home in Belton on the corner of Mill and Scott Streets

M. Houston as Crouch and Houston.

He married Zadah Laura Pearson on Nov. 19, 1896 in Harrisonville, Mo. She was born July 25, 1875 in Harrisonville, a daughter of William Dudley and Laura Corbin (Hidden) Pearson, Her Pearson grandparents were early settlers in Van

Buren (later Cass) County Mo. from Kentucky, andher Belcher great-grandparents were early settlers in Jackson County, Missouri from Virginia.

The Crouch's had two children, William Pearson, born Mar. 31, 1898, died Mar. 3, 1902. L. M. Jr., was born Aug. 23, 1902 in the home built by the Crouches in 1899 at the northwest corner of Scott Avenue and Mill Street (the house

pictured still stands though much enlarged).

Cronch received the Democratic nomination for Cass County Probate Judge in Aug. 1902, and when elected the following November, the family moved to Harrisonville, He served two four-year terms as Probate Judge and after that was in general law practice in Harrisonville until his retirement in 1955.

Zadah Crouch died May 8, 1945. Judge Crouch married Mrs. Edna C. Groebe on Feb. 12, 1949. Judge Crouch who died Jan. 22, 1966, was a devout Baptist, and active in church work in both Belton and Harrisonville. He was a Mason and Shriner.

L. M. Jr., was educated in the Harrisonville schools and the University of Missouri (Columbia). He finished his law course January 1924 and was admitted to the Cass County Bar on Jan. 7, of that year. The firm of Crouch and Crouch was established Feb. 1 of that year and still exists, now as Crouch, Crouch, Spangler and Douglas. He is a member of the Missouri and American Bar Associations, a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, and a member of the Missouri Commission on Higher Education.

L. M., Jr., married Dixie Faye Griffith on Nov. 30, 1935 in Harrisonville. She was born Oct. 17, 1912 at Creighton, Mo., a daughter of Edgar McDonnell and Georgia Beatrice (Cowan) Griffith. They had one son, Leslie Milton, III, born Dec. 14, 1936. His mother, Dixie, died November 6, 1960.

L. M., Jr., married Mary (Blomever) Byram on March 12, 1966. She was born July 11, 1907 at Charleston, Mo., and was the widow of Frank Fowler Byram who was born and reared in Harrisonville. They now live in the old Pearson-Crouch family home at 909 East Pearl Street, Harrisonville.

Leslie Milton III, was educated in Harrisonville and the University of Missouri (Columbia) and received his law degree in 1964 after serving two years in the Navy. He is now an attorney in San Diego, Calif. He married Janet Lee Sebesky. on Nov. 25, 1961 and they are the parents of two children. Scott Kevin, born Oct. 23, 1964, and Lisa Dixie born March



The Benjamin Barr Home

One of the early pioneers of this area was Benjamin Barr. Born in Lancaster County, Penn., on Aug. 17, 1823, he was the only son in a family of eight born to Samuel and Maria Barr. He married Barbara Groff, the daughter of John and Susan Groff in 1845. The families of each were farmers. The Barrs were the parents of 13 children, two of whom died in infancy.

When the Civil War erupted, the eldest son was not old enough to serve; but, as was the custom, part of their possessions were subject to conscription. As the story goes, a horse was contributed to the cause, and was used for the duration of the war when it was returned to the owner.

In 1869, Barr came to look over the new land in Missouri, He bought some 400 acres for \$55 per acre from John Dennis, and was offered \$75 before the final settlement was made, The attraction of this tract of land was the plentiful water supply

which was furnished by four or five springs. There was also a barn and a six room house. The recently constructed "Y" Highway Extension runs through this land.

Barr, his wife and 11 children, journeyed to this area which was practically "open" prairie in 1870. Three carloads of furniture and farming equipment had been shipped to Pleasant Hill which was the nearest shipping point. These possessions were moved with wagons and teams over nearly non-existent roads. Not long after their arrival, they added five rooms to the house which stood until 1922 when the present home was built.

The family, Mennonites, would drive to Garden City, Mo., site of the nearest church.

Later, at various times, 600 more acres were acquired. After the death of Benjamin in 1881, his widow and children carried on the farming operations. The estate was divided among the 11 children: Mary (Herr), Samuel, Emma (Keyport), Catherine (Huber), Frances (Goodbar), Benjamin, John, Barbara (Crumley), Anna (Wood), Sarah (Meador) and Abraham. The mother kept the home place of 299 acres (now known as the Wyall farm) with one of the children living with her at all times.

John the eighth child of the family was married to Malinda Good in 1887. They had four children; Kalhryn (Reid) who died in 1940, Mary (Roberts) Frank and Earl. John, his wife and family moved in with his mother in 1899 and remained until her death in April, 1912.

The estate was settled in 1913 by the sale of the farm to

Frank Sweet, who later sold to George Wyatt.

In 1914 the family moved to the Blair farm about two and one-half miles east of Belton, adjacent to Highway 58, where they lived for five years. During this time the two sons served in the first world war, Frank in the Army and Earl in the Navy.

John Barr bought about 40 acres on the east edge of Belton in 1918. This tract can be remembered by the old timers as the Fair Grounds. The following year, a bome was built in which Barr lived until his death in 1929, and his wife until her death in 1944. This home is now owned by Ives and Wilma Reid. The rest of the land is now the site of Memorial Park and a number of homes.

Earl Barr, youngest son of John and Malinda Barr was born March 16, 1894. He was married to Laura Twente on Feb. 29, 1920 and they established their home three miles east of Raymore. Their children are: Olin, Marylin (Miller) Elaine (Espino) and Richard. They have 13 grandchildren, two grandchildren by marriage and one great grandchild. The farm, known as the C. C. Painter farm consisting of 426 acres was purchased in 1946, by Olin on his return from service in the Naval Air Force in World War II. He and his wife made their home there and he and his father continued as partners in farm operations. The farm lands east of Raymore were sold in 1951 and the Jerry Sulliyan farm of 416 acres, eight and one-half miles south of Belton was bought. After service in the Army (thirteen months being spent in Korea), Richard returned home and wanted continue farming. The parents moved to Belton to refire and Richard and wife took over the home place. Mr. Barr continued as nather with each of the boys until 1959 when he sold the respective farms to their where they live with their families.

The complete families of this time (January 1972) are: Olin and wife Verna (Miller) son Kenneth and wife Carol (Smith) and Kevin, Marylin and husband Charles Miller, daughter Janis and husband Darold Brunkow and their sons, Glenn, Jim and Carl all of near Lawrence, Kans.; Elaine and husband George Espino, sons, Francisco, Richard and George and daughters, Virginia and Elaine all of Mexico City, Mexico.

Richard and wife Rita (Alexander) daughters Malinda,

Linda (deceased), Jeanette, and Laura of Belton.

Many other descendants of Benjamin Barr, including even great, great, great grandchildren live in this immediate vicinity as well as many parts of the United States.

The picture shows the Barr house about 1907. The main house has been added to the original Barr home, Shown are (1 to r) John, Barbara (in window), Malinda Good Barr, Frank and Carl Barr.

Gregg

Samuel and Mary Ann Gregg were brother and sister. Mary Ann Gregg married George Washington March on Sept. 23, 1835. She was the mother of Wallace McCampbell March and Susan Eleanor March who became the wife of George Washington Scott, founder of Belion — Jan. 14, 1858.

Samuel Gregg married Maria. They were the parents of John William, Walter, Wallace, Edward, Nellie, Mame, and Mattie Gregg; all born in Independence, Mo. Samuel Gregg had slaves, and when the Civil War broke out, he took his slaves to Sherman, Tex. in a big covered wagon. The slaves didn't care for Texas, and after the war ended, they returned to Independence. Gregg told them that he couldn't pay them any money, but they said they just wanted to be back home in the little brick houses overlooking the Gregg Cemetery. So they lived there, took care of the horses and cows, put ice in the ice house, and raised food for themselves and for the Gregg family. Samuel Boon Gregg, their grandson, remembers sleeping with the little Negro boys. Eventually, the slaves died and were buried there on the farm.

During the Civil War, Samuel Gregg took care of some poor families while their fathers were away. After the war, they gave him an ebony, gold-headed cane, which his grandson, Samuel Boon Gregg in Kansas City, still has.

John William (Will) Gregg married Jessie Smith in September of 1885. They lived in Belton, and their only son, Samuel Boon Gregg, was born Sept. 20, 1886. John had a small dry goods store in Belton where Citizen's Bank is now located. Cowan Wilson was a silent partner and helped in many ways. One day Wilson was in the store and Fanny Scott came in. Will Gregg, her cousin, said "Fanny, here's Cowan Wilson who you should meet." Wilson was a tall man and Fanny was a slim girl. Wilson said, "You sure are a little girl, let me weigh you." He weighed her on some scales nearby, she weighed only 98 pounds. From then on, there was a romance. Fanny married Wilson in Belton on Sept. 1, 1886.

John Gregg died of typhoid fever when he was 27, on March 12, 1890. R. C. Wilson was a great help to his widow, Jessie Smith Gregg. Jessie married R. T. Morrison of Kansas



House on Walnut Street where S. Boon Gregg was born.

City in 1890. He was a widower with two children, Alice and Paul. He came to Belton to buy corn to ship to his grain elevator in Wilson, Kans. Boon's mother, Jessie Morrison, died in the flu epidemic of 1918. Boon went to Missouri Valley College at Marshall, Mo. in 1905 and met Gertrude Thompson of Pilot Grove, Mo. in 1906. They were married near Pilot Grove in 1911. Her father, Joseph, was a Confederate soldier who took part in the Battle of Westport in 1864 and remembered riding by the Wornall home in Kansas Cityafter the battle. Boon

and Gertrude had two sons and one daughter; Joseph Boon, John William and Helen Louise. Samuel Boon Gregg became a member of the Kansas City Board of Trade, and is now its oldest active member. Gregg has been a trustee of Missouri Valley College since 1910, Their son, John was killed in 1944 in an airplane accident during World War II. Their son, Joseph, is also a member of the Kansas City Board of Trade, and president of the Governing Board of Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. His son, Joseph Pickering Gregg, is also a member of Board of Trade. They are the only three members of a family within this organization.

Robinson - Dunlap



Jeremiah V. Robinson in 1878

Shortly after the Civil War, Jeremiah Vardeman Robinson of Kentucky, born in 1823, came to Missouri looking for a new home for his family. He traveled by steamboat from Cincinnati, Ohio, down the Ohio River to Cairo, Ill., then up the Mississippi River to Kansas City. He visited with his brother, Ben, living in Hickman Mills, who had migrated to Missouri prior to the war. Deciding to move to Missouri, Robinson went back to Kentucky for his family.

In 1823 he had married Jane Bush also of Kentucky, who died shortly after giving birth to their only child, Frank Gentry Robinson in 1850. She was buried in Kentucky.

J. V. then married Mary Catherine Hampton, who was born in Kentucky in 1837. They had a daughter, Minerva Frances, born in 1866, also in Kentucky.

The Robinsons moved to Kansas City about 1867 where they had a home at Ninth and Main Streets. Robinson purchased a farm south of Kansas City which today would be bounded as follows: on the north Armour Boulevard; on the east, The Paseo; on the South, Brush Creek and on the west, Troost Avenue. When he sold the farm, Robinson decided to move south into Cass County.

The family settled at High Blue, the northwest corner of Missouri Highway 58 and Prospect Ave. Robinson and his son Frank Gentry, established a general merchandise store at that location which opened in 1869. Two black men who were experienced blacksmiths came to Missouri with the Robinson family and J. V. put up a shop for them at High Blue.

When Belton was platted, Robinson decided to move his store and blacksmith shop to the new town, and the move was completed in early 1872. It is believed that the Robinson family were the first settlers after George Scott laid out the town. Robinson built two store buildings at what is now the southeast corner of Main and Walnut Streets (Western Auto). He also built a residence at Scott Ave. and Main Streets. The store was operated by J. V., his son Frank, his nephew, B. V. Robinson and later they were joined by R. P. Dunlap of Kentucky.

After many years of successful operation the store was sold to local Belton interests, J. V. Robinson, who was the twelfth of thirteen children, was a member of the first Belton school board, an early day member of the board of directors of the Bank of Belton, and one of the founders of the Belton Christian Church. He was succeeded on the Bank of Belton

board by his son, Frank Gentry, who served for many years even after his move to Kansas City.

J. V. retired from business when he was fifty years old in 1873 and lived another 50 years. He died in 1923 and is buried in the Belton Cemetery. A sister, Mildred Robinson had followed her brothers, J. V. and Ben to Missouri. She also settled in Belton and married Thomas Berry.

Mary Catherine Hampton Robinson, who died in 1922 and is buried in Belton, was a direct descendent of General Wade Hampton of Revolutionary War fame. She was the cousin of the second Gen. Wade Hampton of the Civil War, who was a son of the former. He later became a governor of South Carolina and a United States senator from that state. A statue of him on horseback is in the capital grounds at Columbia, S. C. Several other members of the Hampton family later moved to Belton, among these the mother, father and sister of Mary Catherine Robinson.

Frank G. Robinson moved to Kansas City after the Robinson stock was sold and he became a livestock commission merchant and banker. He died in 1931 and is buried in Kansas. City.

He had married Sarah Frances Lillard of Kentucky in 1870. They made their home in Belton where the A&P Market is now. There were four children, now all deceased. Thomas Lillard, Mary, Frances and Patricia who died in Kansas City, Jan. 24, 1972.

Thomas Lillard married Dora McDaniel. Both are buried in the Belton Cemetery. They had five children: Fannie Lillard Botts, deceased; Eleanor Jane Collins and Mary Bright Hamilton, both of Colorado; Frank Gentry Robinson of Arkansas and Jerry V. Robinson, deceased, buried in the Belton cemetery

Frances Robinson married Don P. Ricksecker of Kansas



Minerva Frances Robinson, 1869

City. There were two children, John and Frankie Ricksecker Atkeson, both of Kansas City.

Patricia Robinson married Forest Merchant of Kansas City and they had two children, Russell, deceased; and Mary Annette who lives in Kansas City.

Frank Gentry Robinson later married Clara Belle Bush of Chicago. There were no children. The second Mrs. Robinson died and was buried in Kansas City in 1935.

Richard Patton Dunlap who was born in Kentucky in 1861, came to Missouri after his graduation from Center College, Danville, Ky. He married Minerva Frances Robinson and after the Robinson store was sold, they moved to Tonopah, Nev. He engaged in the silver mining business and had copper mining interests in Arizona and gold mining interests in California. Not long after his move to Nevada, he established a home in San Francisco where he and his family lived for many years. He was a president of the San Francisco Stock Exchange and had other business interests in that city. His wife, Minerva died in San Francisco in 1918 and was buried in the Belton Cemetery. After Dunlap retired from business he made his home in Missouri. He was buried on the Robinson-Dunlap lot in the Belton Cemetery after his death in 1941.

The only direct descendent of J. V. Robinson and Mary Catherine Hampton Robinson in the Belton area at this time is Richard L. Dunlap. He is the son of R. P. Dunlap and Minerva Frances Robinson Dunlap. He is married to the former Lucy Wilson, a granddaughter of George W. Scott, the founder of Belton. They have one daughter, Frances Scott Dunlap named after her grandmothers, Scott and Dunlap.



Richard L. Dunlap between 1900 - 1910

Killinger



Verne E. and Anna Lee Killinger, 1961

Verne E. Killinger was born in Bellon in 1882, and attended grade and high school here.

During vacation periods he worked for Simeon Dehoney delivering groceries in a one horse rig, receiving five dollars a month,

When he was 17 he worked on the farm of Sam Holloway and earned \$15 per month. His father was a stone mason contractor and he worked for him during the summer of 1809. Killinger earned enough to enter Central Business College in Kansas City. After graduation he was employed by the Dickey Mercantile Co. for one year.

He returned to Belton and was employed by A. Rosier & Co., dry goods store. When Rosiers decided to open a branch store in Larned, Kans., in 1911, Killinger was named manager. A three year lease was not renewed and Killinger moved to Montana where he was employed by the new J. C. Penney Co. of Great Falls.

He was appointed manager of the store there in 1917 succeeding Herb Penney who was called into the New York office.

Killinger retired from the Penney Co. in 1930 but was named to open a new store in Long Beach, Calif., in 1932, where he stayed until retiring for good in 1935.

Killinger married Anna Lee Allison of Belton on June 16, 1908. They moved to Santa Monica, Calif. in 1937, where they built a home. Killinger lives there today, his wife died Sept. 25, 1970.

Lamar

John Lamar, son of James Lamar and Elizabeth Seavers Lamar was a native of Jefferson County, Tennessee, born Oct. 24, 1819. He married Frances Hodges, daughter of William Welcome Hodges in Jefferson County Feb. 18, 1841. One son, James Callaway, was born to them in Tennessee in Jan. 1842. Later that year John, Frances, four month old James. John's mother and Frances's father and family left Tennessee for Missouri. After a months travel, they found two log houses in what is now Polk county and here they spent the summer of 1842. They had crossed the Mississippi in the neighborhood of Cairo, Ill. by ferry and spent a few days in Charleston where the horses were shod and the families rested. Mr. Hodges and John Lamar were not satisfied with the land in Polk County so they left the families there and set out on horseback for Platte Purchase where John's brother William had already settled. They found the land more to their liking

and returned for their families and brought them to Platte County near Weston. John and family came to Cass County in 1853, spent a short time near Morristown and finally settled four miles southwest of Belton and a home was built in 1854. The land was bought from the U.S. Government and a grandson, Baker, still has the original land grant issued when Franklin Pierce was president.

When Order No. 11 was issued during the Civil War, Mrs. Lamar took the small children and returned to Platte County where they stayed for the duration. John and his two oldest sons, James Callaway (Cal) and Napoleon Bonaparte (Bone) mounted their hourse and joined the Confederate forces. The house was set on fire two or three times, but it was not destroyed. The three men returned home but had to relinquish their horses to the Union forces. The horses were later returned if the owners could identify them. Mr. Lamar went to



John Lamar at 90 (center) with his children

Harrisonville where the Union Army had corralled them and was able to identify two of them.

After the war the two older sons joined a wagon train in Westport and made a trip to Oregon and back. They were gone so long the family had almost given them up as lost when they returned. Of the seven sons and two daughters born to John and Frances, six sons, N. B., J. C., Charles, William, John Jr., and Henry and one daughter, Harriet, were married and settled in the surrounding area. Thomas, the other son, died at the age of 23 and Rebecca Elizabeth, never married and lived with and cared for her father after the death of Frances in 1898. John died in 1905.

Join Lamar was associate judge of the county court of Cass County for part of one term and was elected for another. He and his family were members of the Christian Church at High Blue which was later moved to Belton.

One rather unusual aspect of this family is that the entire family are all buried at the Bryant Cemetery three miles west of Belton.

In 1892 John and Frances Lamar celebrated their 50th

wedding anniversary in the old home. Two of the original rooms of the home still stand as part of the home place although it has been remodeled from time to time.

The youngest son, Henry, built a small home on the original farm not far from his father's home and lived and raised his family there. His son, Walter and his bride moved into the old home and raised their family on the farm. Henry's grandson, Baker LaMar built a home on part of the original land and still lives there.

T. M. Dobson, grandson of Henry, N. B. Lamar, grandson of N.B., and Harriet's granddaughter, Margaret Wade live near by in the community. Mrs. Nellie Rosier, daughter of Harriet, and her son Robert have made their home in Belton and Buford Lamar of Belton who died in 1971 was a son of N. B. Several other grandchildren of John and Frances still live in the Kansas City area.

J. Cal LaMar, 88, a descendant of William Lamar was a lifelong resident of Belton until 1971 when he moved to Leawood, Kans.

Shouse

James Monroe Shouse was born Dec. 21, 1845 near New Market, Platte County, Mo. He was the son of Benjamin Perry Shouse and Margaret Farra Shouse who migrated to Platte County from Woodford County, Kentucky in 1844. With six brothers and four sisters, Jim Shouse grew to manhood in Platte County. At the age of nineteen he joined the Bee Creek Baptist Church and from that time his life was closely allied to the church. He was later a member of the Aubry Baptist Church, the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, which he and his wife helped organize, and where he was Sunday School superintendent, and the Belton Baptist Church where as a deacon, trustee, Sunday School superintendent and teacher he served for 20 years.

James Shouse and Harriett Lamar, daughter of John and Frances Hodges Lamar, were married Nov. 5, 1868. For three years they lived in Platte County. In 1871 Shouse purchased 96 acres of land in Johnson County, Kans., seven miles southwest of Belton. From time to time he added acreage until he owned 695 acres, part of it on the Missouri side of the state line.

Mr. and Mrs. Shouse were interested in their children's education and all of them attended college. The sons attended

William Jewell College and the daughters, Liberty Ladies College, which later was combined with William Jewell. Mr. Shouse served as treasurer and member of the school board in Belton for 20 years.

In 1918 Mr. and Mrs. Shouse celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the home in Belton with all their children and grandchildren in attendance.

In 1903 the Shouse's moved to Belton and left two sons in charge of the farming operation which he supervised. He became president of the Citizens Bank of Belton when it was organized in 1903 and kept that post until his death July 11, 1922.

Nine children were born to James and Harriett. One died in infancy and two boys, Frank and Edward died in childhood. The six who survived were: John Lamar Shouse, born June 7, 1871, died May 8, 1964; married Emeline Ingram; two children, Phoebe Shouse Mueller and J. L. Shouse Jr.

Mary Elizabeth Shouse born Sept. 18, 1874, died July 11 1950; married Edgar Ross Idol; six children, Harriett I. Young, Edgar Shouse Idol, James Daniel Idol, Elizabeth I. Yoss, and twins, Frances I. Chamberlain and Margaret I. Wade.

James Herbert Shouse, born March 19, 1878, died Aug. 2,



Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Shouse, sons, daughters and grandchildren about 1904

1966; married Lillian Clarks; two daughters, Margaret S. Jones, deceased and Nell S. Diel.

Nellie Frances Shouse, born Feb. 22, 1880, is still living and made Belton her home until Dec. 1971, when she moved to Waurika, Okla.; married Roy L. Rosier, three sons, Shouse Rosier, deceased, Dr. Harold A. Rosier and Robert Rosier.

Napoleon Bonaparte Shouse, born Sept. 18, 1882, died May 8, 1962; married Fan Garnett; one son, James Garnett, deceased.

Harriet Belle, born Nov. 26, 1884, died Dec. 29, 1964.
After the death of Harriet Shouse's father, John Lamar in 1905, her sister, Rebecca Elizabeth Lamar, known affectionately as Aunt Betty to her Iriends and many nieces and

nephews, made her home with the Shouse family. When James Shouse passed away his wife, Harriett and Miss Lamar made their home in Kansas City with Miss Harriet Shouse who was a librarian there. Miss Lamar died Feb. 19, 1931 and Mrs. Shouse died Aug. 28, 1935.

Members of the Shouse family still in and near Belton are: Mrs. Nellie Shouse Rosier and her son, Robert, who recently moved to Waurika, Okla, but still maintain their home of 50 years at 803 Commercial; Mrs. Phoebe Shouse Mueller and her brother J. L. Shouse, Jr., of Kansas City own the old farm home and part of the farmland southwest of Belton on the state line; and Mrs. Margaret Idol Wade of Rt. 1 of Belton.

Idal

Saying he had found a "veritable nest of Virginians in Belton," Daniel Christian Idol in the spring of 1884 sent for his family in Mouth of Wilson, Va.

He was born Dec. 23, 1851 at Guilford Court House, N. C. to John and Charity Ann Huff Idol. John was a Christian minister and served later as a captain in the Confederate Army.

Dan married Nancy Caroline Ross, daughter of Wilborn and Adah Perkins Ross at the Ross home, Mouth of Wilson, Feb. 15, 1874. Idol was a carpenter and cabinet maker and built a home on the bank of Wilson Creek where it enters New River. The natives referred to it as the "round house" and it was still standing a few years ago. It was octagon in shape and today would be called split-level as the lower floor was built on a huge rock foundation at the base of a hill and the upper floor was built into the hill top. Five of the Idol's seven children were born in this house.

Times were lean in 1882 and leaving his family in Virginia, Idol and four other men went to Ruby Hill, Nev., where they did carpenter work in a mine for a year. When the mine went bankrupt, they went to Salt Lake City, Utah, where they found plenty of building going on. Idol stayed there until 1884, when his debts were paid.

It was on a trip to Belton to visit relatives that he sent for his family, feeling they would be happy living among so many Virginians. He and George Ferrel formed a partnership in contracting buildings.

He purchased the "Cass County Leader" in 1890 and in 1892 "The Belton Herald". From that time, until 1924, except for a few years he was synonomous with "newspaper" in Belton,

Four of the Idol children grew to adulthood. Three sons: Edgar Ross, Sidney Clyde and Roy Clarence; and one daughter, Nancy Ruth. The three sons learned the newspaper business from their father and went on to make it their vocation.

Idol was a member of the Democratic county committee and served as committeeman in Mt. Pleasant Township for several years. He also served as justice of the peace for a number of years. He was a life-long Christian and never forgot the Scripture quotations learned from his father.

Nancy Ross Idol died May 24, 1926, after 52 years of marriage. After her death, Idol made his home with his daughter and son-in-law Nannie and James R. Campbell. His later years were spent refinishing antique furniture and making new pieces by hand. Many homes in Cass County still have footstools and tables of intricate inlaid work, products of his talent. Several of his pieces were in the Missouri display at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933, Dan Idol died Sept. 8, 1941.

Several houses in Belton are samples of his workmanship, for he never completely gave up carpentry. The E. E.





At left, top to bottom; John, Dan, Edgar and Harriet Idol. At right, in front of Idol home still standing on Commercial Street are Clyde, Edgar and Roy Idol, Mrs. Dan Idol holding Nannie Idol, and Dan Idol.

Hawthorne home (110 So. Scott), the Roy Rosier residence (803 Commercial), and the Lawrence Bishop home (310 Cedar) are all built by Idol. Besides the Campbell home already mentioned he also remodeled and lived in the Maria Perkins home at Hackberry and Commercial.

Several grandchildren besides Nancy Wright are still living in the vicinity, Mrs. Lodine Campbell Prewitt, Pleasant Hill, Bill Idol of Grandview, Mrs. Lillian Idol Owen of Overland Park, Mrs. Margaret Idol Wade of Belton and numerous great-grandchildren.

Hawthorne



Summer 1898 - (1 to r) Mrs. A. C. Hawthorne, A. C. Hawthorne, Edwin Hawthorne, James George, Fannie Hawthorne, Laura Hawthorne George and James Glen Hawthorne on step.

Andrew Carson Hawthorne was born July 16, 1843 at King's Salt Works, Washington County, Virginia. His parents were Andrew and Elizabeth McLain Hawthorne who came from Scotland in 1839. When he was 19, A. C. joined the Confederate Army. He was wounded at Gettysburg, rejoined his company and was captured at the Wilderness and was a prisoner at Elmira when the war ended. His uncle, George Hawthorne knew Andrew Jackson through whose authority the young soldier was finally paroled. He came to Cass County when he was 23 and was soon breaking prairie ground west of Belton,

Hawthorne married Jane Ross, daughter of Capt. John Ross,

Oct. 6, 1875 at the family home one mile west of Grandview. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. They were Laura, who married J. Frank George, E. E., who married Maude Ellen Yost, Fannie and J. R.

For many years A. C. was a merchant in Belton and at his death his son E. E. Hawthorne assumed the management of the store. He and his wife kept the store until the middle 1940's, when the stock was sold out and the store closed. They devoted their time to supervising the farm lands they had inherited from their parents.

- 13F

Yost



June 1908 - Mr. and Mrs. William E. Yost, Maude Yost Hawthorne and Anna Lee Yost Rosier

An early pioneer farmer in Cass County was William E. Yost. He was born in Jessamine County, Kentucky July 27, 1839 to George J. Yost and Elizabeth Ritter Yost. The family moved to Missouri in 1852, first locating in Jackson County for two years. They then came to Cass County and settled near Harrisonville. In March, 1862, they came to a farm near Belton in Raymore township.

William Yost enlisted in the Confederate Army in Sept. 1861, and served in Company C of Col. Irvin's Cavalry and was in the battle of Pea Ridge. He served until May 1862, returned home and spent some three years traveling through Colorado and New Mexico. He was married to Philena Umstead, a native of Indiana on Jan. 20, 1879. Yost had 920 acres of land, all under fence. At the time of his death, May 4, 1919, he owned 1800 acres of land. He was equally successful in the world of

finance and for a time served as president of the Bank of Belton. The Yosts were members of the Baptist Church in Belton and were public spirited and charitable. They were the parents of four children; George J. born 1881 died at an early age; Maude Ellen born Aug. 7, 1882, later married E. E. Hawthorne; Mary E. born Aug. 25, 1885 also deceased in her youth; Anna Lee born Aug. 6, 1886, later became Mrs. Glen H. Rosier. Both of the daughters who survived to maturity, attended Hardin College in Mexico, Mo. They were both active in business affairs, serving on the board of directors for the Bank of Belton at times and supervising the land which they inherited. They were both active members in the Baptist Church.

The only surviving member of this family now is William Yost Rosier of Albuquerque, New Mexico, whose wife, Ruby Bishop Rosier was also a member of a Belton family.

Rosier

Will and Absolom Rosier were born near West Union, Iowa. Will came to Belton in the late 1880's and started a dry goods store. In 1892 Absolom brought his family to Belton and joined his brother as a partner in the business. A few years later he bought Will's interest and moved the business next door to the Bank of Belton. Will, a few months later, opened a grocery business next door to A. Rosier & Co. and kept it until his death. Will and his wife had two children: Leota, who passed away in her early 20's; and Glenn who married Anna Lee Yost. They had one son, William Yost Rosier, now of Albuquerque, N. M.

Absolom and his wife had two children: Roy L., and Maude Ellen. Roy married Nellie F. Shouse. They had three sons: Shouse, deceased; Harold A., now a doctor in Waurika, Okla. and Robert L., who until recently made his home in Belton with his mother. They are both now living in Waurika, Okla. Robert manages the family real estate holdings.

Maude Ellen married Cecil Boyer, They had one daughter, Betty. Mrs. Boyer is now a resident of Lee's Summit.

Roy Rosier and Walter C. Pettus became members of the firm of A. Rosier & So. in 1903 and were in charge of the business in Belton and kept it a live and thriving retail store until it was sold to Mr. Kratzin 1938, A. Rosier opened and operated a store in Harrisonville for a short time and then moved to Kansas City in 1905 where he lived until his death in 1937.

For many years, A. Rosier -- Pettus Co., had an annual picnic for their employees and families, Roy Rosier was a great believer in recreation and was a member of the Belton Tennis Club as a young man. Later his interests turned to fishing, hunting and golf. Roy and Nellie Rosier were long time members of the Belton Baptist Church and Mrs. Rosier is probably the oldest living member today at age 92. Roy Rosier died in May 1951 being preceded in death by his oldest son, Shouse, in January, 1951.

Evans

Squire William Newman Evans born June 7, 1832 in Bowling Green, Ky. enlisted in the Union Army in 1861 and served as a veterinarian. After the war he settled on the "Old

Trail", (58 Highway east of Belton). He married Mary Elizabeth Yost in 1870. She was the daughter of George and Elizabeth Ritter Yost, also natives of Kentucky. The Yost family had

-14F -

settled south of High Grove Road near Grandview. When the Civil War broke out the Yost men joined the Confederate Army. The family was driven from their home and it was borned. A young daughter who was very ill, died that night from exposure. The Yost family then settled near Freeman,



Fred Evans, early 1900's

Mo, and after the war tomesteaded land on the Cass-Jackson county line.

Squire Evans was active in early local history serving on the Immigrant Committee and Grand Jury. He was a Belton Fair Board Director, and was active in the Masons, Church and school activities.

William Frederick Evans (Fred) was the fourth of seven children born to William Newman and Mary Flizabeth Evans. The others were George, Cora, Thomas, John, Laura Long and Mary McPheeters.

Fred was married to Mollie Perkins at the home of Rev. Charles Scarritt in Kansas City on Oct. 21, 1903. They remained in the city and attended the American Royal as part of their wedding celebration. Evans, a well known stockman, had attended the first American Royal held in the 1890's and never missed a one during his lifetime.

Fred and Mollie established their home east of Belton. Mollie was the daughter of John R. and Melvina Dealy Perkins whose families came to this area from North Carolina and North Tennessee and settled near Lone Jack long before the Civil War. After their marriage in 1876, they came to the Raymore-Belton area and settled southeast of Belton on what is known as the Pickering Farm. It was known then as Harrelson Station. Mollie was the third child in a family of 14

children, five of whom are still living; they are Mrs. Pearl Holth and Miss Elsie Perkins of Elgin, Ill.; Mrs. Sallie Barger (Mrs. John G., Jr.) of Kansas City; Mrs. Susan Fred and Miss Pansy Perkins of Grandview. The others were Lydia, wife of John Marwell; Bertha, wife of Arthur Wright; Thomas, Jessie, Earl (twin of Pearl); Walter; Howard, who married Maria Thompson of Belton and who is still a resident, and John.

Fred Evans, a farm manager for 33 years, was a charter member of the Eastern Star at Raymore, past-president of the Raymore school board, and a member of the Masons for 61 years. He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1953. Fred died in 1956, Mollle in 1964.

They were the parents of three daughters, all of whom graduated from Belton High School, Margaret of Kansas City. married Robert Ross Clendenen, son of Robert Ross and Josephine Morrow Clendenen of Northeast of Raymore; June, of Raytown, married William S. Bullock, son of Elphus and Beulah Stewarw Bullock of Belton; Elizabeth married John P. Perry and they are residents of Belton. There are two grandchildren, Fred W. Hodkins, son of Elizabeth Perry by a former marriage, who with his wife, Gale, lives in Kent, Ohio, and Betty Jane Bullock of Lawrence, Kans. The three grandchildren hold Master's degrees, Fred and Gale from Kent State University, Betty Jane from Kansas University.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Evans, 1903 - 1953

Sprinkle

S. D. Sprinkle of Virginia was conscripted by the Confederate Army to make all hats and caps for the soldiers. He had a furniture and cabinet factory on the Holston River in Virginia, which was converted to the making of hats and caps. He was a personal friend of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

During the war, the Sprinkle home was destroyed and he brought his family west to Missouri. They settled in Belton in 1880.

His son S. D., Jr. had a dry goods store (formerly Robinsons) on what is now the Western Auto corner. (401 Main) A son of S. D., Jr., Paul C. Sprinkle, was an attorney and practiced in Kansas City until his death in 1962.

A daughter, Jessie, (Mrs. C. O. Campbell) is a resident of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Reynolds

George William (Uncle Billie) Reynolds and his wife, Tilitha Ann Robinson Reynolds, left a rural home near Nicholasville, Ky., which is a little town south of Lexington, and with their family of five children came to Belton in 1885. They settled and lived here the rest of their lives.

William Barry (Bill) Reynolds, was their eldest son.

He married Almina Mae Newsom on Oct. 21, 1891 and eventually settled on a farm which was located on the Cass-Jackson County line, where the Richard-Gebaur Air Fleld is now located. On this farm they reared their four children: Gladys, Clarence B. (known as Jack to everyone around Belton), Ray and Haskell. All of this family are now deceased with the exception of

Haskell, affectionately known as "Hack", who lives in Portland, Ore.

Jack's widow, Emma Mae Reynolds, still lives in Belton. George Mortimer Reynolds, second son of George and Tilitha, married Julia Ann Casper and they had three children, Lovenia, Iola and Pauline. They lived in Belton for a few years after their marriage but finally moved to the Shefield district in Kansas City, where they lived the rest of their lives. Lovenia Jewell, their eldest daughter still lives in the home place at 127 So. Bellaire.

Frank Hackett Reynolds, another son, grew to manhood in Belton and was known as "Old Hack". He married Anna Gertrude Handley. They settled in Belton, where they reared five children: Esther Lucille, who is now deceased, Milo Hackett who lives in Lee's Summit, Mildred June, who lives with her husband, Luther Pugh in Independence, Mo., Keith Horridge, also of Independence and Bethel Gertrude (Beth) who lives in Latour, Mo. with her husband Glenn Harper. She is Postmistress there,

Clarence Vince Reynolds, known as "Tucky" married Norma Kepner and they settled in Belton. They had no children. He was the owner of the grocery store that stood in the center of the Belton business district for many years. Both "Tucky" and Norma are deceased.

Lela Ellis Reynolds, the youngest child and only daughter of G. W. and his wife, died when she was only 18 years old.

Jackson

The C. S. (Jack) Jackson family moved to Belton from Browington, Mo. in 1888. Jack Jackson, as he was known, was born in Jackson Ferry, Ky. He was married to Matilda Baker of McPherson County Kans. in 1876. They had four sons: Will, John, Milo and Charlie when Jack died in 1904. Matilda, and the two younger sons, Milo and Charlie, migrated to Oklahoma where her father was living on a farm near Okeene that he had secured in the Cherokee land rush. They made their home in Oklahoma the rest of their lives.

The oldest son, Will, married Naomi (Topsy) Alderson, a daughter of George and Rachel Alderson, who were among the earliest settlers of this community. They had six children all of whom made their home in Belton during their formative years. These children are: Mildred Sheridan and Ruth Reynolds of Portland, Ore.; Kenneth of Kirksville, Mo.; Morris of California; Lois Owen of Kansas City, Mo. and Nadine Reynolds, deceased.

John Jackson was married in 1903 to Stella O'Dell of Atherton, Mo. and they had three children: Orlynn, now deceased; Emma Mae and Weldon.

Emma Mae married C. B. (Jack) Reynolds of another old time Belton family. He died in 1971, They had one daughter, Shirley Heidinger. Shirley has two sons, Robert and Barry Woodward.

Weldon married the former Olive Herrick, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. D. Virgil Herrick. They have eight children:



C. S. (Jack) Jackson, son Will, wife Matilda, and front row, John, Milo and Charlie,

John of Gladstone, Mo.; Michal (Mickey) Moss, of Anchorage, Alaska; Linda Jo Lloyd of Staten Island, N. Y.; Captain Jerald (Jerry) Jackson of Karlsruhe, Germany; Janet Marler of Orlando, Florida, and Jacquie, Jeff and Jim, still of the home.

Oldham - Campbell



James Madison Campbell

Flemmon Bentley Oldham who came to Missouri in 1843 was born in Madison County, Ky., April 26, 1826. His parents were Enoch and Harriet Bentley Oldham, natives of the same state. Enoch was born in 1801 and died in 1879. Harriet was

born in 1805,

F. B. spent many days during his boyhood upon the old mound at Boonesboro, Ky., which was the remains of Daniel Boone's fort.

When he first came to Missouri he settled in Jackson county and began life as a farmer. He married Eveline Whitsett in July 1848, also a native of Kentucky, born there Aug. 29, 1848. According to the 1883 Cass County history book, Oldham was quite successful in business until 1857 when he was cheated by a partner out of his farm and practically all his belongings.

Oldham and his family moved to Miami County, Kans. in 1860 where he engaged in farming and stock raising. When the Civil War began, he was in northern territory and because he was a southerner it was dangerous for him to remain. He took his invalid wife and large family by covered wagon to near Castle Rock, Colorado in 1863. When he returned to Cass County in 1865, he and his brother, Capt. William Oldham, bought their father's farm west of Belton.

Oldham, who first settled at High Blue and then came to Belton was a dealer in groceries and provisions, tobacco, cigars and notions. He took an interest in the schools, churches and civic affairs. He and his wife were active members of the Christian Church.

A daughter of the Oldhams, Cassandra Davis married James Madison Campbell, who was born Feb. 3, 1849 on a farm in Platte County, Mo., five miles north of Parkville. He was the sixth of 14 children born to George Washington Campbell and Mary Ann Fox Campbell who settled there after coming from Campbell County, Tenn. They had an 80 acre fruit farm and sold apples to the soldiers during the Civil War at Leavenworth, Kans, Before Burbank was heard of "Wash" Campbell knew how to graft and bud fruit trees, according to his great-granddaughter, Nancy Wright of Kansas City. He was an intelligent man and kept himself informed by taking eastern newspapers. He did not believe in slavery, but did believe in states rights. His father was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The Campbells had evidently come to this country quite a while before that from Scotland and northern Ireland.

James Campbell came to Belton as a young man and in 1880 started his business career associated in a dry goods and general merchandise store with M. Praghheimer, Later he worked for Gilham and Hargis.

At one time, according to his daughter, Glenn Campbell of Kansas City, he and a Christian minister of Belton, Jesse Hughes, hired a detective to get evidence and they ran a whiskey selling drug store out of Belton.

The Campbell's had four children; James Monser (named for one of the Christian preachers of Belton), Jesse Todd (named for Rev. Jesse Hughes), and daughters, Glenn and Pauline. Miss Glenn Campbell of Kansas City was associated with the old Kansas City Provident Assn. at 1115 Charlotte for 18 years. She then spent three years with the City Welfare Division and organized the relief office in Newton County, Mo. Much of her work was done during the Depression years when the relief programs were swamped with applicants.

During the grasshopper year of 1874, F. B. Oldham and James Campbell drove to Independence, Mo. and hauled seed to the farmers in the Belton area. The grasshoppers are everything in sight, even the fence posts.

Oldham and Campbell were charter members of the Christian Church in Belton, helped build the church at High Blue and hauled lumber for the new building in Belton.

A son of Flemmon Oldham, Pascal W. had a hardware store at 59th Street and Swope Parkway in Kansas City. While locking up his store on election day in 1934, he was killed either by a bullet intended for someone else or "because he had seen too much." According to Miss Glenn Campbell, his niece, this incident was a small link in the chain that eventually led to the downfall of the Pendergast machine in Kansas City.

Flemmon Oldham died April 27, 1899 and is buried in the Belton Cemetery, James Madison Campbell who moved to Kansas City in 1900 died there in 1928. Cassandra Madison Campbell lived 100 years plus five months. She died in Kansas City in Oct. 1962.

Campbell



Jim Campbell home on Second Street

Robert Edgar Campbell, born May 7, 1843, was the fourth child born to George Washington Campbell and Mary Ann Fox.

Barely 18 when the Civil War began, he joined the Confederate Army under General Sterling Price. He returned to Westport Landing at the close of the war and was later given the Southern Cross of Honor by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. This medal is now in possession of Jim Terril, his 18-year-old great-great-grandson.

Robert Edgar married Sarah Alice "Molly" Mansell, who was born in Kentucky. Her mother was Mary Catherine Mc-Kinley, a cousin of President William McKinley.

Robert and "Molly" had eight children, six of whom lived. They were James Robert, William Edgar, Kathryn Bernice, Caroline Virginia, John Washington and Anna Laura, all born in or near Belton.

James (Jim) Robert born Nov. 9, 1886 has been a lifelong resident of Belton. He has lived for some 50 years at 702 Second St. at the corner of Hackberry across from the present Methodist Church. He married Nancy Ruth Idol, Dec. 23, 1911. They had three daughters, Kathryn Lodine, Virginia Ruth and Nancy Alice who grew up in Belton and went through school

Jim, a painter and decorator aided by his father-in-law Daniel C. Idol remodeled his home which was the original North Methodist Church, Several of the rooms still have the old tin scrollwork ceiling that was in the church.

Nancy Alice Campbell Wright is an artist with the Grace Co. She has been with the firm 20 years.



Twente

Fred R. Twente, a farmer and stockman of the Belton community, was a native of Missouri. He was born in St. Charles County in 1859 — son of Henry and Elizabeth Twente, who immigrated from Germany to America in the early 1850's, making the voyage in one of the old-time sailing vessels of that day. Fred Twente moved to Cass County in 1910, locating on a farm two miles east of Belton, on what is now 58 Highway. There he engaged in farming and stock-raising making a specialty of white-faced cattle. He was also an extensive breeder of full blood Duroc-Jersey hogs. Twente built a 9-room modern home in 1910. The Twente family were active members of the Belton Methodist Church, several of his descendants still are members of that church. Fred also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Citizens Bank of Belton for many years.

In 1885, Fred married Mary Woestemeyer, They had the following children; John, Ella, Milton, Laura and Verna, Fred, and his wife, and their youngest daughter, Verna, moved to Bel-

ton in 1919 where they lived until the death of Mrs. Twente. Their second son, Milton, spent most of his lifetime on the home farm, carrying on the farming operations begun by his father. Milton married Hattie Balding, of Belton, on Dec. 28, 1916. Their three children were born in the house built by their grandfather — Mabel Rea (Mrs. J. T. Dean) now of Belton; Mary Lucille (Mrs. Ted Higgins) of Grandview; and Milton H. Twente Jr., of Belton. Milton Jr. served his country in World War II, from 1942 to 1946. Other descendants include the sons of J. T. and Mabel Rea: Ronald and Milton Dean, Ronald's two daughters, Christine and Cheryl and Milton's daughter Deborah Jane and son Michael Owen. Also Mary and Ted's son Mark Higgins, and Milton Jr. and Martha's two sons, Edwin and Steven Twente.

Milton, John and Ella are now deceased. Laura, Mrs. Earl Barr, and Verua, Mrs. Gleen Voorbees are still residents of Belton, as is Mrs. Milton Twente Sr.

Wyatt



The Wyley Wyatt family in 1910. Picture was taken in front of the George Wyatt home, 608 No. Scott. He and his wife, Ona, are second and third from left (seated). George W. Wyatt, Jr., is on the hobby horse.

Wyley Wyatt served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. At the close of the war he and his wife. Sarah (Maxwell) Wyatt settled on a farm in Southern Jackson County one and one-half miles south of Grandview, Mo. They were the parents of 11 children. George W. Wyatt Sr., one of the 11, and Ona Wallingford, also of Southern Jackson County, and the daughter of P. I. Wallingford were married in 1905.

They owned a 160 acre farm located on North Scott which is known as part of Kingsland and part of the base housing for Richard-Gebaur AFB. George W. Wyatt Jr., was born in 1907 at this residence. In 1912 they sold this farm and moved to Freeman, Mo. Margaret Wyatt was born in December of that year. In 1919 the present farm located at the northeast corner of Belton was purchased and the family moved there in the spring of 1920. They continued to live here until they moved into Belton in 1948.

In the meantime Margaret Wyatt allended business college after graduating from the Belton High School. She was employed for a time at the Cass County Treasurer's Office in Harrison-ville. She became affiliated with the Merriman Mortgage Company in Kansas City, Mo. in 1934 where she continued to live and work until her death in July, 1971. George W. Wyatt Sr., died in the fall of 1948 and his wife continued to live in Belton until her death in December, 1969.

In 1934 George W. Wyatt Jr. and Maurine Arnold Wyatt were married and are the parents of Wyley Wyatt of Belton and Wanda Wyatt Tarpey of San Diego, Calif. This family moved on the Wyatt Farm in 1948 and are still residing there.

Seba - Meinershagen

George W. and Fred M. Seba from Napoleon, Mo. purchased adjoining farms three miles Northeast of Belton in 1908. They were born near Bay, in Gasconade County, Mo., sons of Fritz and Mary Seba.

George was married to Lydia Woestemeyer in 1899. They had two sons, Erwin D. and Stanley M. Seba. Erwin was married to Clara Moneymaker of Raymore, Mo. They had three sons, Erwin Donald, Fred Marvin and Maurice Winton; and four daughters, Mary Ann, Clara Beth, Linda Lee and Karen Elaine. In 1930 Mr. and Mrs. George Seba moved to Belton and their son Erwin and family moved to the Seba farm. Erwin Seba passed away in 1954. Stanley married Thelma Ray of Belton. They lived in the greater Kansas City area. Lydia Seba died in 1950 and George Seba in 1968.

Fred M. Seba married Emma Meinershagen of Higgins-

ville, Mo. in 1909 and moved to their Belton farm. They had a daughter, Ethel A. and a son Harvey W. Seba. Fred Seba died in 1916. Emma Seba's brother, Hugo Meinershagen, came to live with his sister and do the farming. In 1919 he married Alice Winkler of Raymore and lived on the Seba farm and Mrs. Seba and children went to Higginsville. One daughter, Laura A., was born to the Meinershagens. When Mrs. Meinershagen died in 1921, Hugo and his daughter, Laura, moved to Higginsville. After several years in Higginsville, Emma Seba and children returned to Belton. Harvey married Faustine Clemons of Pineville, Mo. They had three children, John Harvey, George Paul and Sue Ellen. They have lived near Neosho since World War II. Laura Meinershagen returned to Belton in 1940 and made her home with Emma Seba and Ethel A. Seba.

Mrs. Emma Seba died in 1969.

Huggins



The Howard Huggins family. James William, Laura and Howard, Back row: Oscar, Geraldine, Thaisa, Gladys and Robert.

Howard Franklin Huggins, born in Stilwell, Kans. in 1888, moved with his family to Belton on March 4, 1898. At the age of 21, in 1900, he and his brother Willard formed the Huggins Transfer Company and continued this partnership until 1916 when Howard became sole owner.

Howard married Laura Belle St. Clair who was born in Vernon County, Mo. and has always lived in the vicinity of Belton. They were married Nov. 27, 1912, in Ft. Scott, Kans.

They had seven children. Their first son, Woodrow Franklin died in infancy. Two years later their second son, Oscar Howard was born. When Oscar was seven months old the Huggins family moved to 808 South Cedar where Thaisa Louise, Geraldine, Gladys Elizabeth, Robert Eugene and James William were born. Laura and Howard lived in this house for 54 years.

During the flu epidemic of 1918, Howard fell ill and was forced to give up his transfer business. He worked for the John Berry Feed Store until it was destroyed by fire. Then he worked several years for the state highway department and linally became superintendent for the water department of

Belton, Huggins served as Belton's only salaried employe until 1950 and handled the water and sewer department by himself. He was probably more informed than any other person on locations of water and sewer lines within the city. On April 1, 1959, he would have completed 25 years of service to the city. He suffered a stroke, Mar. 4, 1959 and died in his home just a month short of having 25 years service with the City of Belton.

The Howard Huggins family tree now has 13 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, one step-great-grandchild and one great-grandchild.

Thaisa Huggins Stidham is the only child who has remained in Belton all of her 55 years. She has two children seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She and her husband are in the furniture business located at 561 North Scott, Belton.

Robert Huggins has lived in Belton all of his life, with the exception of one year spent in Harrisonville. He and his wife Louise have two children and two grandchildren.

The eldest son, Oscar methis wife Bernice while both were employed at the Grace Company in Belton. This was in fact the first romance at the Grace Company. Oscar served for four years in General Patton's 3rd Army as a Sergeant in Reconcommunications, and now lives in Kansas City. He has two children and three grandchildren.

James William Huggins was also in the Armed Forces, serving two years with the United States Navy. He now lives in Holden, Mo. He has three children, three step-children and a granddaughter.

Gladys Huggins Raupp now lives in Kansas and has two children. Geraldine Huggins Handley also has two children and three grandchildren and lives in Lee's Summit, Mo.



Huggins home at 808 So. Cedar Street

CONTRACTOR PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY ADDRESS OF THE PARTY ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADDRE

Groh

William Groh was a larmer of German descent. His parents came to America as young people, meeting and marrying in the 1850's. They lived near Liberty at the time of the war between the States. William was born in 1866 and when he was about five years of age the family purchased a farm at Kansas City what is now about 40th and Cleveland.

In later years his father purchased a farm four miles South and two miles East of Belton. Here William grew to manhood and married Lura Ettie McAninch, a daughter of W. H. and Julia (Hon) McAninch, early settlers of the area who lived four and one-half miles south of Belton.

Three of the William Groh's children were born on the 'homeplace', Elsie, William H. and Earl.

In 1894 the family moved to the farm six miles south of Belton on Y Highway where the youngest son, Kenneth now lives. Here Charles, Howard, Julia, Ralph and Kenneth were born. William began with 80 acres and accumulated 860 acres. He lived to be 88 years old.

The house on the home place burned in November, 1971, having stood nearly 100 years.

Huber

Frank Huber, born at Lancaster, Penn., in 1847 came to Missouri in 1870 and settled at Lee's Summit. In 1872 he purchased 153 acres one mile north of Belton. He followed farming and general stock raising, increasing his acreage until at his death in 1931, the farm totaled four hundred acres.

Huber married Catherine Barr in 1875. They had four children; Bertha, deceased; Benjamin, deceased; Mrs. Mary Yocom, Kansas City and Mrs. Mattie Sams, Belton. The grand-

children are Frank C. Huber, deceased; Mary Catherine Sams and Ben Huber of Belton; Margaret Huber Miller and Terril H. Yocom.

Huber was one of ten early Belton settlers who borrowed eleven thousand dollars to buy the 1870 township railroad bonds. He contributed \$1,000 toward the construction of the first rock road from Belton to Kansas City. He was also president of the Bank of Belton from 1914 to 1926.

Alderson



The first Alderson house was built about 1849. This was built in 1877 and torn down in 1908. Shown (1 to r) are Grandpa Work, Grandma Gael Work, Emma Fitch, Cowan Fitch, Nellie and Ernest Alderson; Vincent Al-Alderson and daughter, Nellie; William D. Alderson holding Neil; and Mr. Fitch

James C. and Lucinda Bush Alderson came to Missouri from Kentucky in the early 1840's and settled in Independence coming to Cass County in 1849. They settled in the High Blue community. In 1851 they became members of the High Blue Cumberland Presbyterian church. While in the High Blue Community, they were partners in a general store with a Mr. Young. Later they settled on a farm south of Belton in the Swampy School District. Three children were born to them, Vincent, Margaret and James.

Vincent married Gail Collins Judd, a Civil War widow in 1865. Mrs. Judd had a daughter, Emma. Five boys were born to Vincent and Gail: Edgar, James, William, Vincent and Ernest.

William was born in Belton March 14, 1874 at what is now 202 2nd Street. He was married to Martha Ross October 27, 1897. They had four daughters: Marie, Mrs. W. H. Groh,



Aunt Cindy Alderson

who died January 2, 1952; Pauline, Mrs. Frank Mosby; Berniece, Mrs. Weadock, and Kathryn June, Mrs. R. V. Powell.

Pauline and Kathryn June both still live in Belton, Pauline Mosby has a son, William J., two daughters, Frances and Mrs. W. M. (Helen) Graham and two grandsons, David and Douglas Mosby. Mrs. Powell has two sons, Robert and Don.

Four generations of this family have been born in Belton: William Alderson, Pauline Mosby, Bill Mosby and David Mosby.



Kathryn June Powell and son Don, at Alderson graveyard.

Henderson

Henry Clay Henderson, born in Morgan County, 11., Feb. 21, 1853 was reared on a farm in that state and received his education in the public schools and Jacksonville Business College, Jacksonville, 11. When he first came to Missouri, he settled on a farm near Hopkins.

Henry married Gertrude L. Blair of Belvon in 1893, Her brothers were James Franklin and Charles R. Blair.

The Hendersons moved from Hopkins to Belton in 1907, settling on a farm south of Belton. They were the parents of two sons, Charles Franklin and Carl Blair.

Charles Franklin, now deceased, was born March 5, 1895 and married Luella Conrad in 1919. They had three children: Maxine, born Jan. 30, 1922, who married Bill Moore in 1944. They have two daughters, Maryjac and Barbie. Charles Wendell was born Oct. 9, 1920 and he married Gloria Morris in 1948, they have a daughter, Karla Lynn; Mary Lou was born July 9, 1932 and married Bill Barker in 1951, they have two sons, Paul Stephen and Matthew Wade.

The other Henderson son, Carl Blair still residing in Belton was married to Helen Becker, April 13, 1924. She was the daughter of Calvin and Anna Becker. Carl and Helen Henderson were the parents of three sons: Donald Eugene who died at birth Oct. 27, 1925; Robert Carl, born July 28, 1929 and John Marvin born Feb. 18, 1934.

Robert married Betty Nicholas and they have three children: David Patrick, Ruth Ann and Sharon Elaine.

John Marvin married Terrill Anne White in 1947 and they have one son, Mark Alan.

Henry and Gertrude Henderson left the farm and moved into Belton in 1924. Gas was new to Belton in 1929 and they were both overcome by fumes in December of that year. Henry died Dec. 6 without regaining consciousness. Gertrude never recovered and remained an invalid until her death, 21 years later on Jan. 16, 1950.



Gertrude and Henry Henderson



Charles and Carl Henderson

Kerr

John B. and George T. Kerr, farmers, who lived in Section 20, Mt. Pleasant Township, were owners of 230 acres of land in 1883 when an early history of Cass County was written. They were both natives of Madison County, Ky. John was born April 4, 1850 and George, Sept. 13, 1854. They were the sons of Simpson and America Stone Kerr, natives of Clark County, Kentucky. The mother died in 1857, leaving, besides John and George, two other sons, W. Frank and Caleb D. and two daughters, Lizzie and Catherine. The father and his family came to Missouri in 1865 and settled at Old Westport in Jackson County where the father was in merchandising until 1878. Then he located where his two sons lived until his death in 1881.

John B. Kerr married Ada Kisinger, daughter of J. T. Kisinger. They were parents of three children; Bertie, who

later married Roy Mosby; Alva and Mabel. Leroy Kerr Mosby who presently lives in Belton is the son of Bertie and Roy Mosby.

George T. Kerr married Cinderella McKinney of Martin City and they had one son, Clark.

Caleb D. Kerr and Pauline Kidwell were married and were parents of six children: Kirby, Virgil, who married Mattie Garnett; Daniel, Brutus, who lost his life in the Klondike; Mary Elizabeth, wife of Walter E. LaMar; and Nannie Brown who married Sidney J. Hamilton.

Walter and Mary Elizabeth LaMar had two sons and one daughter: Caleb Henry deceased; Eugene Baker, who married Myrtle Mae Warren and who live on the old LaMar homestead, and Mrs. Doris Chambers of Needles, Calif.

Lizzie Kerr married James Cassell and they were parents of five children: David, Beverly, Sadie, Georgia and Catherine.

Hamilton

Sid J. Hamilton and Nannie Brown Kerr were married Mar. 1, 1893 and lived on the "Leonard Place" two and one-half miles north of Peculiar, until 1901, Hamilton had been born on a farm west of Belton and his wife, a native of Kentucky, had moved to Missouri with her family when she was three years old. Her father, Caleb Kerr, moved to Missouri in the 1850's, following his father, Simpson Kerr, who had made the move in the 40's. Caleb and his family first settled in the old Santa Fe section

of Jackson County near the Missouri-Kansas line. They moved to the West Belton community shortly after the Civil War and lived there the rest of their lives.

While the Hamiltons were tenants on the farm near Peculiar, they had three sons; Glenn on Feb. 18, 1894; Paul on Nov. 15, 1896 and Brutus on July 19, 1900.

Sid Hamilton purchased a farm northwest of Belton in 1901 and moved to Harrisonville in 1907 when he was elected Sheriff of Cass County,

Glenn, Paul and Brutus graduated from Harrisonville High School after having attended High Blue School while living in Belton.

Glenn attended Warrensburg State Normal School, served in the Navy during World War I, and then settled in Neodoshea, Kans., where he served as city clerk for 35 years until his retirement in 1959. He married the former Esther Hodges of Paola, Kans. in 1921. Their son, Sidney Glenn Hamilton, is now a scientist with the Aero-space Corporation with headquarters in Long Beach, Calif. They have six children.

Paul Hamilton attended the University of Missouri from 1914 until 1917 when he entered the Army. He played football at the University and was captain of the 1917 team. He returned to Kansas City after two years in the Army and became a real estate salesman for the J. C. Nichols company. With the late William J. Crawford, in 1937, he formed the Hamilton-Crawford Realty Co. which later became the Paul Hamilton Co., Realtors. He now serves as consultant for his firm and several other firms and individuals in Kansas City. Hamilton has served as chairman of the Kansas City Police Board from 1944 to 1948; a member and chairman of the City Planning Commission, 1950 to 1967; president of the Kansas City Real Estate Board, 1959-60, president of the Missouri Real Estate Assn. 1964 and is a director of the Kansas City Title Insurance Co. and the Grand Avenue Bank.

Brutus Hamilton excelled in track and field events during his high school days and in 1916 led the Harrisonville track team to its first state championship in the high school meet held at the University of Missouri. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1922. He was a member of the football team but gained fame in track and field events. He was the American Penthalon and Decathlon champion in 1920 and a member of the 1920 U. S. Olympic team that competed in Antwerp, Belgium, winning second place in the Decathlon. He was captain of the University track and field team in 1922 and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

After a brief business career, he turned to coaching and teaching, first at Westminster College, Fulton, Mo., where he taught history and English and was assistant football coach. He formed a track and field team that garnered three state championships before he left there in 1929,

Named head track and field coach at the University of Kansas, he helped develop stars Jim Bausch and Glenn Cunningham, whom he took to the 1932 Olympic games at Los Angeles. He accepted the position as head track and field coach at the University of California, Berkeley and remained there until 1965. He was also Athletic Director there and Dean of Men. He was head coach of the U. S. Olympic track and field team in 1952 at Helsinki, Finland; the State Department sent him to work with athletes in India in 1954; he was head coach of the American track and field team sent to Europe in 1965 to compete against the Russians in Kiev, the Poles in Warsaw and the Germans in Augsburg.

During World War II, he was commissioned a Captain in the Air Force and spent three years in England and North Africa. He married Rowena Thornburg in 1926. They have a married daughter, Jean and two grandchildren.

Sid J. Hamilton died in 1943, his wife in 1959 and Brutus, Dec. 29, 1971. All are buried in Bryant Cemetery, three miles west of Belton.

Fee

Sam and Gertrude Feeback

Samuel F. Feeback, an early Cass County resident, came to Missouri with his parents from Carlysle, Ky., where he was born. They made the trip in a covered wagon and settled near East Lynne, Mo.

Sam had a horse drawn hearse, ran a livery barn and was a horse and mule buyer.

He married Gertrude Stella Babylon of Warrensburg, Mo. in 1902.

The Feebacks moved to Belton in March, 1929 and farmed until their retirement. They were the parents of seven children and celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on Feb. 10, 1966. Gertrude died on her 67th anniversary in 1969 and Samuel died Dec. 28, 1970.

Their children are all still residents of the Belton and Kansas City areas, except Ewing J. Feeback, born Oct. 18, 1921 who died during World War II in Dec. 1946 while a member of the armed forces.

Feeback

The others are: Lee Erma who married Dwight Coryell. They live in Independence and have a son, Bruce and grandson, Kevin; Lyle B. of Belton who married Helen Kresse; Kinney of Belton, who married Marjorie Dunseth. They have a son, Johnny, of Overland Park who married Loretta Kruger, they have a daughter Marlene and a son, Todd; Sammie G. of Kansas City, who married Dorothy Sheehan; Elizabeth of Belton who married Robert E. Jones, they have a daughter, Jean Ann who married Duane E. Hylton; Russell Allen of Belton who married Hazel Foster. They have two sons, Ewing J. and Russell Allen II.



The Feebacks celebrate the 64th wedding anniversary of Sam and Gertrude. Shown behind their parents are Lee Erma, Kinney, Lyle, Sam, Elizabeth and Russell.

Johnson



John Johnson

The Johnson family were early pioneer settlers of Cass (Van Buren) County. The family had come from Kentucky in 1825 and had settled originally in Westport. The John Johnson family first settled in Belton in 1870 on the land where Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. is now located. Johnson helped in platting the town, was active during the early growth of Belton and was a member of the first town board. He was in the hardware and general merchandising business before the family located on a farm south of Belton which is still Johnson owned (off present Y Highway). John and his wife, Anna Easley had seven children, Nellie M. (1877 —); Kirby E. (1879—1970); Jennie Catherine Kelly (1881—1958); Francis (Frank) Arthur (1884—1937); Susie (1886—1888); Alberta Lane (1888—); and Manor Schooley (1892—).

Frank Arthur remained on the family farm. He and his wife, El Nora (Tribby) had three children, Leonard F., Dorothy, and Marguerite. All were graduates of Belton schools.

Leonard married Maxine Faust and they had two children, Gerald and Judith Lyn. Gerald married Nancy Ruhl and they have two sons, Michael Francis and Jeffery Dale. Judith married James A. Waters and they have two children, Glen Alan and Susan Lyn.

Dorothy Johnson married Gordon E. Jeter and their daughter, Sandra Sue, is married to Dr. Norman Stephenson and they have a son, Brian Glen.

Marguerite Johnson married Wayne A. Harris and they have two children, Ronald W. and Donna. Ronald and his wife, Geneva, have two daughters, Kari L. and Brenda Sue. Donna is married to Jerald W. Gilkeson and they have a son, Seth Wayne.

Nellie Johnson Remembers . . .

Miss Nellie McGee Johnson, who is 95, remembers her younger years spent in and near Belton. When she was six years old her parents, John Francis Johnson and Annie Adelia Easley Johnson, brought their family to Belton from Harrisonville where he had served as deputy in the Recorder of Deeds office from 1872 to 1878. Mr. Johnson had a hardware store in partnership with C. W. Williams, a lawyer in Belton. Later the firm became Sidebottom and Johnson.

When Nellie was 12 years old the family moved to a farm south of Belton near her grandmother's home in the Pleasant Prairie school district. The farm has stayed in the Johnson family and is now owned by Leonard Johnson. She recalls the year 1889 when several members of the family were ill from typhoid and Dr. Slaughter was the physician who treated them. She remembers Lola Ingram, a classmate at Pleasant Prairie school, teaching her to subtract. She also recalls the names of Ellen Stafford and Fannie Carmichael.

Miss Johnson is a resident of Harrisonville now and is an interested member of the Cass County Historical Society.



The John Johnson family, Nellie Johnson is seated on the left,



Francis (Frank) Arthur Johnson and his wife, El Nora Myrtle Tribby, Feb. 20, 1910.

Holloway

Isaac J. Holloway, Cass County pioneer was a native of Kentucky who was born in Madison County in 1832. He came to Missouri as a child in a two-horse wagon with his parents, John G. and Sallie (Jacobs) Holloway.

They first settled in Jackson County and homesteaded a quarter section of land in the western part, not far from the Black Bob Reservation.

Isaac married America Ann Wilson who died some time after giving birth to William A. Isaac then married Mary Ann Keeney in 1860, who was the daughter of Michael and Nancy Keeney, natives of Tennessee. Mary Ann was born in Jackson County and was raised on a farm there.

Isaac and Mary Ann had two children, Sam R., and Ernest

Holloway was a teacher in the old subscription schools where families donated to pay the teacher's salary. At this time Belton was a prairie abounding in deer, wild turkeys and prairie chickens.

Sam R. attended school at High Blue. He married Lou Crutchfield in 1894. Her parents were H. W. and Marguerite Crutchfield, natives of Clark County, Ry. Sam and Lou had a son Robert L. (deceased).

In the early days of the Civil War in 1861, a report came to the Holloway farm that Jemison's Army was headed that way. Isaac gathered up a few things, put them in a wagon, put W. A., who was seven years old, on a borse and the family retreated to Pleasant Hill. When they returned after the war, the horses were gone and they farmed with exem for awhile.

W. A. joined E. H. Walton in 1874, went to Texas, and engaged in the dairy business. He returned some time later and bought his grandfather's homestead in Jackson County. He moved to Belton in 1904 and raised stock, farmed and had a dairy business. He married Maggie A. Ambrose in 1878. They had three children, Mary, Genevieve and W. A., Jr. Mary married Chester Berry and they had one son, Thomas. Chester and his son are both still residents of Kansas City.

W. A., Jr., married Thelma Walton, daughter of Sidney Lee and Emma Arlene (Roberts) Walton. Emma's brother, Lex, was Belton postmaster from 1916 to 1923. W. A. and Thelma had four children: William Allen, III, Margaret, Mary Patricia and June. William and his wife, Carol, live in Chatham, N. J. and have three sons, Dennis, William A., III, and Stuart. Margaret Holloway Allen lives in Hazelwood, Mo., with her two daughters, Dawn and Leeanne. Mary Holloway Slater lives with her husband, Douglas, and children: Carol, Cathy and Charles Douglas in Bellevue, Wash. June Holloway Jacobs. her husband, Michael and children: Jeff, Julie and Michelle live in Vincennes, Ind.

W. A. (Jun) Holloway was county clerk and county treasurer for Cass County, chief clerk of the auditor's office under Forrest Smith for the State of Missouri and Regional Director of the General Services Administration in Kansas City, holding that post until his death in June, 1966.

Genevieve Dot Holloway married Russell Mullen and they had two daughters, Madalyn and Mary Jane. Mullen was also from an old Belton family and had an insurance business on Main St. for many years. Mary Jane married Lee Faust and they had two children, Russell and Toni.

Madalyn is married to Herb Gebert and she has a son Fred Buchanan by a former marriage. He is presently an officer at Citizens Bank of Belton. Madalyn, now a resident of Colorado Springs, Colo., was secretary to Dr. C. F. Yeokum, superintendent of Belton schools. Fred and his wife, Irene, have a daughter, Carrie Lynn.

Jacoby



Mart and Ella Jacoby and their daughters in 1908

J. M. (Mart) Jacoby, his wife Ella, and their three daughters, Josephine, Hazel and Mary moved to Belton in Janpary 1906, from Hemessee, Okla.

Jacoby was a blacksmith and implement dealer for many years, in association with Ed Blanton and Fred Ruch, Jacoby's brother-in-law.

Mart was a charter member of the Odd Fellows and Woodsman lodges and Ella was a charter member of the Baptist Church. She was also a member of the old Royal Neighbor's Lodge.

Jacoby also served as police judge for some time and was an active member of the old Belton band, playing in the Saturday night concerts that were held at the old bandstand in city hall park. He played many of the wind instruments, the slide trombone and bass horn.

Three sons were born to Mart and Ella after they settled in Belton; Richard, Harryand Norman. All six children attended Belton grade and high school. All of them, with the exception of Richard still live in the surrounding area. Hazel Jacoby Fallis, Mary Jacoby Sands and Norman Jacoby live in Kansas City; Josephine Jacoby O'Bert is a resident of Warrensburg and Harry Jacoby and his wife Ethel live in the original Jacoby home at 712 Main St. in Belton, Their daughters, Mary Lou King and Peggy Taylor live with their families in Belton.

Mart Jacoby died in March, 1950, and his wife, Ella, in March, 1968.

Taylor - Pitts

Martin A. Taylor and his wife came to Missouri from Albany, Kentucky in 1884. They bought a farm from Monroe Phillips of Peculiar in 1914 and farmed until moving to Belton in 1920, where they lived until their death. They were the parents of seven children, three who survive still live in Belton. Cicero A. Taylor, Mrs. Ranzey W. (Neta) Pitts and Mrs. Mary Taylor

Pitts.

Mary Taylor married Pearl H. Pitts, the son of Romulus and Nancy Ann Pitts who also came to Missouri from Kentucky and located on a farm south of Belfow in the Pleasant Prairie community.

They were farmers, but Pitts also taught penmanship for 30 years. He had a case mill and made several hundred gallon of norghum each autumn before retiring and moving to Belton. Romulus and Nancy Ann Lived with their daughter, Kathryn Grisbam until their death.

Pearl and Mary were the parents of six children. The family moved to Belton from the farm in March, 1922, The

children are Mrs. LeRoy W. (Hattie) Roebuck and Romulus M. Pitts, both of Belton; Mrs. Jesse L. (Hazel) Grisham, Paramount, Calif., Mrs. Robert A. (Cora L.) Troxell, Anaheim, Calif., Harold T. Pitts, Chelau, Wash., and Charles F. Pitts, Pacific Palisades, Calif. All graduated from Belton High School except Harold who graduated from Stanwood High School (Washington).

Two grandsons presently are attending Belton schools, Randy Martin and Steven Curtis, sons of Romulus and Frances Pitts.

Pearl Pitts died Dec. 31, 1963, Mary is retired from The Grace Company, where she was employed for 25 years.

Houston



The Houston family in 1906. Pictured (1 to r) are Mrs. Mary Houston, William Perry, Myrtle Hyatt, Florence, William Jr., Esther and George.

Newton F. and Jennie A. (Williams) Houston came to Cass County from Maniteau County, Missouri in April 1873. They settled on a farm in the Raymore community known as the Joseph Gilmore farm, half way between Belton and Raymore. A few years later they moved into Raymore where they lived the rest of their lives. They were the parents of four children, William Perry; James who died in 1942; Blanche and Maude.

William Perry attended school in Raymore, then entered Warrensburg State Normal school receiving his degree two years later. He then entered Dixon School of Law at Dixon, Ill., where he received his law degree. He returned to Missouri and taught school for ten years in Maries and Franklin counties. He was admitted to the bar, September, 1903 and began his practice in Belton, where he purchased a law office.

He was elected Cass County's representative in the Missouri Legislature in 1904 and was re-elected in 1906. When he returned to Belton, he served four years as city attorney and was elected mayor in 1911. He served four consecutive terms and was re-elected again in 1921. During his terms of office, the town spent \$10,000 on its streets; \$12,000 for an electric light plant, and he induced the Frisco railroad to spend about \$5,000 in improving its property in Belton. During his terms as representative, he was instrumental in the building of the present city hall.

Houston married Mary Elizabeth Hiatt in 1805, They were the parents of six children, five of whom survive; Ester West of Rocky Ford, Colo; Florence Houston, Green Bay, Wisc.; George, St. Louis, Mo. and James and William of Belton. Myrtle Houston Frasure died in 1971.

James married Pauline Kearney, also of Belton and William married Mildred Shelton of Belton.

William Perry Houston died in 1947, his wife, Mary, in 1935.

Blair

Alexander Franklin Blair and James Harrison Blair were brothers in a family of five sous and three daughters born to John Peoples and Susan Ogden Blair who were farmers near Ligonier in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Alexander was born in 1833 and came west in 1857 to engage in a freighting operation on the plains. During the Civil War he enlisted in the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry serving in the Quartermaster Department. In the later years of the war he was stationed at Rolla, Mo., and at Ft. Scott, Kans. Mustered out of the army at the end of the war, he decided to settle in Cass County, and homesteaded a farm about one and one-half miles northeast of what later became Belton. He became a cattleman and continued his freighting operations. He married Nancy P. Johnson from Westmoreland County, Penn., in 1867. The couple had no children. He was instrumental in founding the Bank of Belton in 1884 with other Belton citizens and served as its president until his death in 1909.

James, the other brother, also enlisted in the Pennsylvania Infantry in the Quartermaster Department. He was wounded in the Battle of Bull Run, was transferred to Rolla, Mo., and subsequently was sent to Ft. Scott, Kans., with his

brother, where he was given a disability discharge. He also settled near Belton and homesteaded a farm about two miles southeast of Belton. He married Rebecca Reed, also from Westmoreland County, Penn., and they had two sons, James Franklin Blair born in 1868, Charles Reed Blair, born in 1875, and a daughter, Gertrude Lawrence Blair, born in 1871. James remained a farmer all of his life, but from time to time engaged in freighting operations on the plains with his brother, Alexander.

James Franklin Blair was reared and educated in the Belton area schools. When he was 19 he became associated with his uncle, Alexander F. Blair, in the Bank of Belton, and served in various capacities for 47 years until his death in 1934. James married Agnes Green in 1891, and they had five children: Nadine, Bernice Garnett, Mary Rebecca, and twins Agnes Frances (now deceased) and James Franklin Jr., James Franklin Jr., (Frank) was associated with his father in the Bank of Belton in 1931 and is now president of the bank. He and his wife Elizabeth Atteberry Blair reside in the family home place. They have two children, Virginia Blair Benz, and James Franklin Blair III.

Gertrude Lawrence Blair was born near Belton in 1871. She was educated in the Belton schools and in 1893 married Henry Clay Henderson. The Henderson history appears elsewhere in this book.

Charles Reed Blair, the youngest of the children of James H. Blair, was born and educated in the Belton area. He was a successful farmer on the home place about two miles southeast of Belton. He married Susan Ellen March and to this marriage three children were born; James Wallace, Charles

Lawrence (now deceased), and Julian D. James Wallace married Beulah Micke. He is now retired from the Grace Company and lives in Belton. He is president of the Belton Cemetery Assn., active in the American Legion and was instrumental in organizing some of Belton's baseball leams after World War II.

Julian D. married Dorothy Seitz and they had three children: Robert J. Blair, Barbara Blair Peden, and Judy Blair McDowell. They live in Kansas City, Mo.

Young



Elizabeth Sanford Young Mullen

James Hickman Young was born March 10, 1849 in old Westport that small but historical community not far from the banks of the Missouri River. He had three brothers and one sister.

His mother Elizabeth Sanford had come to Missouri from Kentucky, emigrating to that state from Ohio in 1835. They traveled by oxen teams and when they arrived on the banks of the Mississippi, the river was at flood stage. Her step-father and family forced her to ride the lead oxen across the flooding river into Missouri and safety. It was a terrifying experience she was forced to undertake and from that time on there seems to be no further relationship with her family. She taught school in Independence several years and married Chesney Young, a widower with three daughters.

There were only a few houses in the community of Westport and their home was situated on the road leading to the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails, Elizabeth Sanford Young assisted the frontiersman, Jim Bridger and others to prepare for their long trips into the wilderness. Bridger was in the first party of white men to discover Great Salt Lake and Salt Lake Desert. Sewing, mending and inventorying supplies were a part of her services.

By the year 1854, Missouri was in much unrest politically. By 1861, the Civil War and all its devastation was affecting the areas of Belton and Cass County. Order #11 and the scorched earth policy was enforced. The Chesney Youngs had moved south of Belton one and one-half miles and the home was burned in August, 1861 leaving Elizabeth with her eight children. James Young was then 12 years old and large for his age. He was threatened by hanging with a rope around his neck to make him divulge the whereabouts of his older brothers. James was forced to flee the country. With his sister Rachel and her newborn baby, they rode horseback to Paris, Tex. En route, the baby died, and Rachel's husband had been killed in battle.

James Young remained in Texas at the barracks, and when the war was over came north living with the Cherokee Indians for about a year before returning to Belton.

His mother, Elizabeth, was typical of the pioneering frontier women who were on call at all times for medical help. Family history has it that one of the babies she delivered was Frank Blair, Sr. When cholera struck there were no facilities for caring for the ill, Elizabeth used cabbage leaves to help assuage the fever, but many died, including her husband, Chesney, Elizabeth later married Patrick Mullen.

James Young married Lou Belle Edelen in 1889, She had come with her parents at the close of the Civil War from Kentucky. Her background was caught up in the history of



Lou Belle and James Hickman Young

Kentucky. Her grandfather, Gen. Robert B. McAfee, was Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky, president of the board at West Point, and Ambassador to Bogota, Colombia, under President Polk. Gen. McAfee contributed much to the historical and educational development of Kentucky and after the family migrated to Missouri, Dr. John McAfee became co-founder of Park College at Parkville, Mo. Eventually he sent his daughter to Wellesley. She was president of that college, later she became the first captain of the WAVES.

James Hickman Young and Lou Belle Edelen Young were the parents of two children, Euel Bruce and Kathleen.

Martin Bruce Young the son of Euel and Lucille Martin Young, lives with his wife, Jan, and four children in Overland Park, Kans. Both of his parents are deceased.

The two daughters of Kathleen and her late husband, Walter J. Barnes, reside with their husbands and children in a suburb of Portland, Ore., and Walla Walla, Wash. Their families consist of six children.

Thus the descendants of Elizabeth and Chesney Young have now crossed the continent.

Wilson



Robert Cowan and Fanny Scott Wilson

Robert Cowan Wilson was born Feb. 26, 1856 in Moorefield, Hardy County, Va. His father, Dr. William Venable Wilson, a graduate of Hampton Sidney College, was born January, 1819 in Prince Edward County, Va. His mother, Grace Anne Wilson was also born in Virginia in 1816. Although both parents were Wilsons, they came from far different branches of the Wilson families in Virginia. They were married in "Woodville", Cumberland, Va. in 1843. Dr. Wilson was a Presbyterian minister who read the Bible in Hebrewas well as in English. After a ministry of more than 50 years at Marion and Max Meadows, Va. the Wilsons retired to their home in Lynchburg.

Besides Robert Cowan, the Wilsons had five other children, Goodridge followed his father as a Presbyterian minister, married, had six children and remained in Virginia. Elizabeth married, had three sons and a daughter and remained in Lynchburg. Samuel Graham came to St. Louis, Mo. at an early age and entered the wholesale dry goods business. He and his wife had seven children. William, Jr., married but had no children and remained in Lynchburg. He was a corporation lawyer who wrote the Federal Reserve Bank Act for Senator Carter Glass of Virginia with the understanding that no one but the family would know about it. Grace Macon never married and also remained in Lynchburg at the family home called "The Old Open Door."

Robert Cowan followed his brother Samuel to St. Louis in 1876 and joined him in the wholesale dry goods business. The association lasted 32 years and eventually included R. C.'s son, Scott, and two nephews. R. C. enjoyed traveling instead of spending his time in the store and so became a part-time "drummer." He often invested in stores he sold to.

Robert Cowan Wilson married Fanny Scott, daughter of George W. Scott, Belton's founder, on Sept. 1, 1886. The Wilson's lived for a time in St. Louis, but soon returned to Belton. They made their home with Fanny's parents for six years. Both their daughter, Grace and son Scott, were born in the original Scott home, Grace on March 5, 1892 and Scott on Jan. 23, 1889. George Scott gave his daughter and son-in-law part of his property and they built the large Victorian home, still standing at 206 So. Scott St. They moved into their new home in November, 1892 and there their two other children were born, Susan on March 11, 1894 and Lucy on Sept. 30, 1897.

R. C. Wilson commuted to St. Louis for 32 years coming to Belton weekends by riding the Missouri-Pacific train from St. Louis to Pleasant Hill and then hiring a team and carriage to bring him to Belton.

The four Wilson children attended Belton schools for 12 years and all attended college in or near Lynchburg, During their childhood years, Grace Wilson Van Brunt remembers a playhouse back of their home built by Arch Sprinkle and painted by Bill Leonard. Toys and dolls were kept here and she used the yard-square discarded samples her father brought home to make clothes for her dolls. This early pastime was to assert itself in later years when she founded The Grace Company, specializing in children's sizes. She remembers too, her brother Scott raised White Wyandotte chickens and she and her sisters were "weak partners." He made coops and shipped out many chickens and became a close friend of Bill Davidson who raised prized Wyandottes. Davidson is still a resident of Belton. Mrs. Van Brunt also remembers fondly Rose McSpadden and Mrs. Emma Seba who lived with the R. C. Wilsons at different times. Also "Uncle" Dan Tucker, a Negro servant who came with the Scotts from Kentucky, He remained with the Scott and Wilson families until his death

Fanny Wilson saw her husband's health failing in 1900, so in November of that year she went to a Hereford cattle sale and bought six pure-bred Anxiety the Fourth Herefords, enough for a foundation herd. R. C. came back to Belton and on April 8, 1901, bought the 300-acre Beckman Farm just north of



Lucy, Scott, Grace and Susan Wilson

Belton. John Mullen was the agent on the sale. The farm was just across the road from the Frank Huber farm and they became life-long friends.

The land on which The Grace Company is now, was purchased from the Irvin family by George W. Scott and his brother-in-law, Wallace March, Jan. 12, 1880. They also raised Herefords and in March, 1902 they formed the Scott and March Land and Cattle Co. Stockholders besides Scott and March were John W. Scott, Fanny Wilson and R. C. Wilson. March died later that month and although he had never married, there were 14 heirs. To settle the estate, Wilson bought out the other heirs and put the land in his wife's name where it remained until her death Oct. 21, 1944. Five generations have now walked on the land: Grace's daughter, Margaret Van Brunt Rymar and her daughters, of Kansas City being the fourth and fifth.

After Wilson bought the land, he put most of his Here-



The first Wilson Golden Wedding was celebrated by Dr. William Venable Wilson and his wife, Grace, with their children at the Wilson home in Lynchburg, Va., "The Old Open Door," on Nov. 8, 1893.



Robert Cowan and Fanny Scott Wilson and their children celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sept. 1, 1936 at the Wilson home on North Scott St., Belton. Shown with their parents are Susan, Grace Scott and Lucy.

ford herd on it and it was managed by Joe Higgins for many years.

After the Chaney Mill on Mill St. was abandoned, Wilson bought the property, erected a windmill over the well and piped water to his home and to both the Christian and Baptist Churches for their baptistries. He became associated with the Bank of Belton as a shareholder in 1907 and in 1932 was named president of the Board of Directors, a post he held until his death Sept. 25, 1942.

The four Wilson children married as follows: Susan Ella married Dr. Lynn B. Greene, Dec. 3, 1919 at the Methodist Church South in Belton. They have one daughter, Susanne Lee who married William E. Seyfried at Columbia, Mo. in 1949. The Seyfrieds, who have two children, Lynda and Paul, live in Webster Grove, Mo.

Grace March Wilson married John Van Brunt, Jr., on June 2, 1920 at the Methodist Church South, Belton. The Van Brunts were married by Charles Wesley Scarritt, a member of the pioneer Scarritt family in Kansas City. He was paster of the Belton church from 1896 to 1900. The Van Brunt's have one daughter, Margaret Macon, who married Lt. Cdr.

Julian W. Rymar at the Van Brunt home, Dec. 11, 1954. They have three daughters, Ann Mackall, Gracen Macon and Margaret Gibson. The Rymars live in Kansas City.

Margaret Lucy Wilson married Richard L. Dunlapon April 12, 1923 at the Wilson home in Belton. They have one daughter, Frances Scott. The Dunlaps live in Kansas City.

George Scott Wilson married Sue Clarke Williams, June 2, 1923 at the Boonville Presbyterian Church in Boonville, Mo. They had two children, William Wilson and Sue Scott. William married Nathalie Grey, March 31, 1951 at Charleston, S. C. They have five children, John Scott, Sue Ann, Mary Elizabeth, Ruth Ann and Jessie Evans. The Wilsons live in Adam's Run, S. C.

Sue Scott Wilson married Dr. Arnold Eversull, July 28, 1951 in Kansas City, Mo. They have three children, Susan Elizabeth, Mary Margaret and Hubert Arnold, Jr. all living in Mission, Kans.

Scott Wilson, who entered World War I as a private and was commissioned an officer, died in Washington, D. C. July 21, 1970. He is buried in the Belton cemetery.



John and Grace Wilson Van Brunt, Jr., celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with daughter, Margaret, her husband Julian Rymar, and children, Ann, Gracen and Gibson on June 2, 1970, at the Van Brunt home in Kansas City.

Dye - Boren



Moses and Caroline Boren and their daughter, Carrie Lou.

(saac Dye and his wife rlizabeth (Alderson) Dye and their family came to Missouri in a covered wagon from Kentucky in 1950. There were no roads or bridges as we know them, only trails. Streams had to be "forded." Some places on the Missouri River had a ferry boat but most times, the teams of either horses or oxen had to swim across as they pulled the wagons, which carried all a family's possessions. The first home of the Dye's was of logs, built on the farm four miles south and one mile east of what is now Belton.

During the days of Order #11, the government requisitioned the best horses, mules, cattle, household goods, cured meat, bedding and other provisions.

The Dye children, Elizabeth, Louisa and Caroline, along with the neighboring Jeter and White families and children walked and drove what chickens, turkeys, geese and cattle that were left to Westport Landing where they crossed the river and continued on to Liberty where they stayed for the duration. On their return, they found some of the outbuildings had been burned but the main house remained intact. A part of it was torn down in the 1880's and the house standing

today (the C. K. Frank home) was built by a son, Isaac Percival Dye who owned the land at that time. It was built around one of the rooms of the original house. The elder Isaac had lost his life when a team ran away overturning the wagon in which he and his wife were riding.

Moses F. Boren and his brother, Riley, were early settlers in the area, coming from the Kentucky-Tennessee region. These men married the Dye sisters, Caroline and Elizabeth respectively. Moses and Caroline were the parents of one daughter, Carrie Lou.

Riley and Elizabeth were the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters. One daughter, Anna Lee was married to Joseph Brown and they were the parents of three sons: Charles, Forrest and Claude, owners of the Crown Coach Co. bus line until their deaths.

Moses Boren was enrolled in the Missouri Militia in December, 1866 and after the war was over, he and Caroline Dye rode horseback to Pleasant Hill where they were married. They made their home, two miles south and one-half mile east of Belton where the Casis Tavern is now located. Their daughter, Carrie Lou, was married to Andy J. Sears on Aug. 31, 1896 in the house at the northwest corner of Walnut and B Streets. The house was owned at that time by Joseph H. Reynolds and his wife, who was a sister of Sears.

Andy Sears was born on a farm seven miles south and two miles east of Belton in 1868. He attended rural schools in the area, most of the time at the Burney School. He later went to Chillicothe where he was given a certificate to teach school. In the early days there were so called "Institutes" at Harrisonville and Garden City which teachers could attend during vacations to further their educations. Sears taught 19 terms of school in the rural schools of the area, including Swampy, Pleasant Prairie, Burney, West Union, Glenwilde and Hazel Hill. The top salary was \$45 per month. At Pleasant Prairie school, Sears had 75 pupils.

Carrie Lou Boren Sears was educated at the Swampy school and in the Belton school when it was a white clapboard building located about where Belton Home Laundry is now. She also attended the first brick school building in Belton which was completed in 1888.

Andy and Carrie Sears were the parents of three children, Lena Aylene Estelle; Paul D., and Hazel G.

Sears was also a farmer and a merchant and was Justice of the Peace in Belton for a number of years. He died in January, 1946, his wife, Carried in December, 1942.

Hazel Sears married Howard F. Groh in October, 1929. They are the parents of two daughters, Joyce Jean Rice and Ruby Lee Myers.

Groh has been a farmer most of his life except when he served in the cavalry in 1921-22 and when he worked at North American Aviation plant and at Pratt-Whitney during World War II.

Joyce Jean is a teacher in the Knob Noster school system, her husband, Don, teaches at Central Missouri State College. They have a son and two daughters.

Ruby Lee and her husband, Paul E., live in Greentown, Ind., where Paul works at the Chrysler Corp. offices at Kokomo, Ind. They have four sons.

Jones

James A, and Annie Jones came to Belton from North Carolina in 1891 with their four sons, William L.; Gilbert A. (Bert); Robert (Curly); and John M. They Came by way of the Mississippi River and settled on a farm near Belton, later moving into town.

James served as marshal of Belton at one time and was affectionately nicknamed "Uncle Liner" for the state from which he had come.

John M. Jones attended Belton schools and was on the football team in 1906. He married Laura J. Bullock in 1908. She was the daughter of George F. Bullock and his wife of Garden City, Mo. He worked in Gilham's Grocery Store and then spent three years in the Gilham store in Hinton, Okla, When he returned to Belton, he joined S. D. Sprinkle



Mr. and Mrs. James A. Jones



Robert E. and Bertha King Jones



The four Jones brothers. Top right, Robert Eugene and John M. On bottom row, Gilbert A. and William L.

and the store was known as Sprinkle and Jones. He became a rural mail carrier in 1918 and had Route One in Belton for 18 years. He was a Mason and member of the Methodist Church, Laura Jones was a member of the Eastern Star. The Jones home was at the present site of the Belton Post Office. He died at the home on July 29, 1936. Laura died July 13, 1954.

John and Laura had two children, Marguerite and Glenn Wilson.

Marguerite married Ted Beeghly of Peculiar, Mo. and they made their home in Peculiar for 15 years before moving to Belton in 1948. They have been owners of the Belton Cleaners since then.

Glenn was born in 1918, attended Belton schools and was attending Junior College in Kansas City before his father's illness. He was married to Ruth Beem of Belton and was employed at the Missouri Public Service Co. in Clinton when World War II started. He enlisted in the Air Force and was killed in action, March 8, 1945.

The second Jones brother, Gilbert, and his wife, Annie, had eight children: Lorena F. Hood, Florida; Theresa E. Cowan, Bethany, Mo.; Verna King, Independence, Mo.; Imogene E. Goddard, Freeman, Mo.; Joseph J., Gilbert J., and Charles E. all of Harrisonville. A daughter, Marie A., is deceased. Gilbert Jones died in 1953.

William L. Jones was a horse and mule buyer. He and his wife, Ora, had two children; Luther, who died in 1966 and Jessie Jones Davis of Kansas City, Mo.

Robert E. (Curly) Jones was born in 1882. He married Bertha King in June, 1905 and they had one son, Robert E. (Bob) Jr., born Feb. 21, 1911. Bertha died in 1915 and Jones married Mary Knight in 1917. They had a daughter, Mary Louise. Robert, Jr. married Elizabeth Feeback, July 8, 1933. They have one daughter, Jean Ann, who was born Feb. 2, 1940. She married Duane E. Hylton in 1963 and they make their home in



Laura Jones



Marguerite and John M. Jones

Belton

Bob Jones was township trustee for seven years and in 1939 was elected to the Belton city council. He was the youngest member at that time. He served four years as mayor of Belton from 1965 to 1969.

Mary Louise Jones married Jack Lightfoot on Aug. 9, 1947. They had two children; Jack, who is presently attending Northeast Missouri State College, Kirksville; and Laura, who is a high school student. Mary Louise is presently head of the music department at Shelbina, Mo. Her husband, Jack, died Dec. 17, 1971.

Keeney

Thomas Keeney (1824-1900), came with his brothers to Cass County, Missouri in 1844 and homesteaded land located at the Cass County line and Prospect Ave., only recently sold by Mrs. Fred Yeager and Elsie Paterson to Rosehill Nursery.

Keeney married Lou Ann Gregory (1836-1855) in 1853. They had one daughter, Mary Alice Keeney (1854-1937). After Lou Ann Keeney's death in 1855, Thomas remained on his farm west of Belton, and with the help of a devoted colored woman, Mary, he raised his daughter.

When Order No. 11 was issued, Mary Alice was sent to live with the family of her mother's brother, Will Gregory (for whom Gregory Blvd. in Kansas City was named). They lived in Old Westport and she remained with her Uncle until the cessation of hostility in the area. She returned to live with her father, nearby uncles and numerous cousins.

Mary Alice Keeney married Edward McPherson of the Martin City - Santa Fe area in 1872. McPherson traveled for many years for McCormick Implement Company and they continued to live on the farm with her father until 1907 when McPherson purchased a coal yard at 22nd and Brooklyn Ave., where Municipal Stadium is now located. The family moved to Kansas City for a number of years, returning to Belton in 1918.

The McPherson's had six children:



Thomas Keeney



Pictured (1 to r) are Tom McPherson, Elsie McPherson Patterson, Jim Lewis, Louann McPherson Lewis, Mame McPherson, Walter McPherson, Mary Alice Keeney McPherson and Ernest McPherson. The picture was taken in September, 1916.

Thomas Edward (1873-1945) was an early day druggist who operated a drug store in Kennett, Mo. for over 50 years.

Lou Ann (1875-1965) was an instructor of tailoring and sewing at Keister College, Omaha, Neb., later part of the University of Nebraska. She was married to James Alfred Lewis in 1912 and they returned to make Belton their home in 1918. They had one daughter, Mary Alice (1917-), who with her husband, Fred Yeager, lives at 502 Second St.

James Ernest (1882-1956), who was instrumental, along with Chares Marr, husband of Lorine Mullen, in the formation

of the original Piggly Wiggly grocery chain.

Walter Cleveland (1884-1937), a veterinarian for the City of New York, caring for the police and fire department horses for over 30 years.

Fredrick McPherson was born in 1886 and died in infancy.
Elsie Mae (1890-) wife of Ronald L. Paterson, whose family was prominent in mining circles in Colorado and who later was instrumental in the development of oil, gas and residential subdivisions in the Los Angeles area in the late 1920s and 1930s. Mrs. Paterson still lives in Belton at 502 Second St.



Dr. Walter McPherson in his buggy making rounds of NYC police and fire department horse barns.

Ashbaugh

Rollin and Clarence Ashbaugh, who both live on Mill Street, are descendants of an early day settler in Missouri and Belton. Joseph L. Ashbaugh came to Kansas City from Kentucky by boat and had a blacksmith shop at High Blue before Belton was founded. He went from there to St. Joseph, Mo. where he shod horses for the government.

This was probably about 1877. A quit claim deed, dated March, 1870, shows property transferred from A. G. Carpenter to Joseph L. Ashbaugh. A deed of trust, dated Jan. 25, 1875, shows Joseph L. Ashbaugh to A. G. Carpenter, and a warranty deed, dated Feb. 8, 1877, shows Joseph L. Ashbaugh to Benjamin F. Jones. The anvil from Ashbaugh's shop at High Blue is still in the community.

This picture of members of the Ashbaugh family was taken at a family reunion in 1925. Shown (I to r) are Rollin Ashbaugh, Virginia (a step-daughter of Lewis Ashbaugh); the McSpadden sisters; Nadine McSpadden; Pearl Ashbaugh, (deceased); Ed (brother to Virginia). Second row is Lewis Ashbaugh; Mamie Parsons; Will Ashbaugh (brother of Clarence's grandfather, Sam); Beulah Miller; Joe McSpadden holding his daughter; and Joe's wife. Third row, Jim Parsons; Rhody McSpadden; George Ashbaugh (father of Rollin and Clarence); Mrs. Lewis Ashbaugh; Rob McSpadden; Mrs. George Ashbaugh (Grace); and Clarence Ashbaugh. The picture was taken in front of the home at Second and Pine, which has since been torn down.



The Ashbaugh Family reunion, 1925

Mullen





John Mullen and his twin sister, Mary Mullen Brown, in 1937. At right, Mullen family descendants at a family reunion several years ago.

John E. Mullen, father of Allen, Russell and Nelson (all deceased), was a native pioneer of Belton. He was born Aug. 31, 1855 on a farm one and one-half miles south of Belton. At the age of 20, he came to Belton and found employment with Robinson and Waller Hardware Company as a clerk.

Several years later he became the owner of a hardware store. He entered the real estate business in 1898, which he continued until his retirement in 1939, four years before his death in 1943.

Mullen saw the surrounding country, including the site of Belton grow from a blue stem prairie to the present day

development. It is quite possible that Mullen sold more real estate in Cass County than any other salesman.

As far as is known, he was, at the time of his death, the oldest living native of Cass County. He was president of Citizens Bank of Belton for 20 years. His son, Nelson was postmaster of Belton for 30 years. Allen was a farmer, and Russell followed his father in the real estate business.

Grandchildren still living are; James F. Mullen, Grandview; Paul Mullen, Tulsa, Okla.; Gilbert Mullen, Grandview, and Madalyn Gebert, Colorado, Springs, Colo. A great-grandson, Fred Buchanan, is with the Citizens Bank of Belton,

Downing - Harrison



The Downing Home south of Belton

William Downing migrated to Missouri in 1867 from Ohio, settling first in Jackson County, then moving to Cass County, southwest of Belton in 1868. He raised and sold stock and raised corn, when the nearest market place was a general store at High Blue.

He had married Abigail Campbell, also a native of Ohio, in 1861.

During the Civil War, Abigail's brother was in the Union Army stationed at Kansas City. When he was mustered out of the Army, he returned to Willoughby, Ohio and spoke glowingly of the area in and around Kansas City.

Abigail's uncle, Alonzo A. Goodman, was the first to migrate westward. He purchased some land east of the road that went to Westport (now about Main St. and south of Fifth St. in Kansas City.) He built a large brick home at what is now Independence and Woodland Avenues in 1865.

William was then a young man with a wife and two young



Glenn E. Harrison (on right) with a grandson. Pictured on right is William Downing.

- 32F -

children. His father, a large land owner in Ohio, had hired a substitute to take his place in the Army, paying \$13.50 per month which was permissable by law. Downing's father had come by the land through his wife's father whose name was Simmons. He had been a corporal in the Revolutionary War. The soldiers received little or no pay, but when they opened up the northwest territory, land was given according to a man's Army rank, which in Simmons case was 2,000 acres.

To raise the money to come west, Downing's father let him keep what money he made threshing for the neighbors for one season. It added up to \$1200. This, plus a team of horses and other items necessary for farming, he brought to Kansas City. He traveled by boat, his wife, Abigail, came by train and met him when he landed in Kansas City.

Goodman wanted Downing to join him in the store he owned, but William and Abigail decided on farming. They settled first near Greenwood, Mo., buying a farm in partnership with Abigail's brother, Ren. Both families shared a house and Mary Campbell (Abigail's sister) taught school there for awhile.

In the spring of 1868, the Downing's bought the land that their grandson, Glenn Harrison, still lives on. It has remained in the family for 105 years.

The Downings had five children, Clifford, Sarah Eleanor, Llda, Cora and William, who died in infancy. After the death of William, the Downings returned to Ohio for a few years, but returned to their farm south of Belton in 1880.

Sarah Downing married Egbert Sidney Harrison, son of John T. and Sarah Robbins Harrison. Born in 1869, he was raised on a farm southwest of Belton and attended the Stringtown school near Stilwell, Kans., and a college in Paola, Kans. for one year.

Egbert and Sarah were married Oct. 12, 1887. The Harrisons had two sons, Glenn Egbert, born Sept. 9, 1888 and William Downing, born in 1892, both still residents of the Belton area. The family lived in Kansas City for a short time around 1890, where Harrison had a butcher shop at 18th and Prospect. When they returned to Belton, they lived on a farm now owned by W. D. Harrison, three miles south and three miles west of Belton, Later they moved to a farm one-half mile north of Jaudon on Holmes Road, now owned by Glenn Harrison.

William Downing Harrison married Mayme George, daughter of Rose Willis and John E. George, in 1915. Harrison opened a plumbing and heating business in Belton. They were



Mr. and Mrs. William D. Harrison

the parents of two children, Sarah Rose and John Sidney, both graduates of Belton schools. Sarah Rose married Walter H. Mohr and lives in Kansas City. John Sidney married Mary Jane Schonholtz of Hutchinson, Kans. Their home is in San Diego, Calif. They are the parents of three children. John is now senior flight test engineer for General Dynamics and was the man who pushed the button that launched the first Atlas ICBM at Cape Canaveral.

W. D. Harrison served on the Belton school board for several years and was a city council member for nine years. He sold his plumbing and heating business to Jim Kennemer in 1946. He received a 50-year pin from the Masonic Lodge several years ago. The Harrisons have made their home at 712 Second St., for 53 years.

Glenn E. Harrison married Myrtle Lee Mosby. They had three sons: Robert William and Chester Irwin, now both deceased. Chester married Mary Louise Gore of Raymore and they had one son, Paul Lee.

The third son, Glenn Eugene, now of Kansas City, married Edith Mae Wright of Lowry City, Mo. They had two sons: Ronald, who has one son; and Robert. The Harrisons have been connected with the Kansas City Power and Light Co. for a number of years.

Daulton

Harrison Daulton was born in Grandview, Mo., Oct. 12, 1884. His wife, Cordie, was born in Carlisle, Ky., on Sept. 22, 1890 and came with her parents to Butler, Mo. in a covered wagon, when she was six years old.

The Daulton's were married in Belton on Aug. 12, 1911. Daulton was a carpenter and the family lived all their lives in Belton. They had six children: Harve, born in June, 1912, died in infancy; Frances (Sharp) born April 16, 1913; Mariene (Hopper) born Nov. 23, 1915; Robert F., who lives in Excelsior Springs, born April 9, 1918; Davey Lee of Overland Park, born Nov. 14, 1929 and Dean, also of Excelsior Springs, born April 20, 1939.

All the children attended Belton Schools. Frances graduated in 1932; Robert in 1936, Davey Lee in 1947 and Dean in 1956.

Harrison Daulton died Jan. 22, 1966. Mrs. Daulton makes her home with her daughter, Frances Sharp at 621 Main St. Frances and her husband, Charles W., have lived there for 35 years. Mariene Hopper is also a resident of Belton.



Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Daulton

Keeney



Della and Charles Keeney



Clarence and Edgar Keeney - 1909



Clarence and Esther Keeney and daughter, Mary - 1919

Over 145 years ago Michael and Nancy (Wiley) Keeney migrated to Missouri from Tennessee in 1829. They settled on a farm that was in both Jackson and Cass Counties and on the part of the farm that was in Jackson County, Sec. 32, Twp. 47, Range 33 W, was a burial ground for the members of the Keeney family.

Michael and Nancy had five sons and two daughters. The oldest son, Jacob, born in Tennessee in 1818, married Julia Ann Fox in 1839. To them were born ten children.

They were farmers with considerable stock and grain. During the Civil War, the government took the following list of animals, grain and meat, with the total amount of the acquisition to be paid at the end of the war. The claim was never paid. 13 horses @ \$125 each, \$1,950; 17 mules @ \$200

each, \$3,400; 7 cows @ \$40 each, \$280; 4 work steers @ \$100 each, \$400; 4 heifers @ \$25 each, \$100; 3,000 bushel corn @ \$1 per bushel, \$3,000; 30 hogs, 300 pounds each, \$900; 11 sheep @ \$6 each, \$66; 1,500 pounds bacon @ 20¢ pound, \$300 for a total of \$10,396.

John Thomas Keeney, the oldest son of Jacob and Julia Ann, married Elizabeth J. Smith in 1869. She was the sister of his partner in the grocery business, J. M. Smith. The Keeneys had three daughters and in 1881 Elizabeth died. In 1885, John married Mrs. Emma Jane Mccoy, a widow with two daughters. They had five children, two of whom are still living, Mrs. Della J. (Keeney) Bradley, born in 1894 and Claude C. Keeney, born in 1897. Mrs. Bradley is living in Belton and Claude lives in Deepwater, Henry County, Mo. Clarence Keeney, born in 1892, married Esther Harrison and they had two children, Mary Kathryn Chamberlain and Thomas H. Keeney.

Thomas Keeney and his wife, Betty Sue (Crow) Keeney had one child, Thomas William. Bill and his wife, Nancy Karen Kohler have two children, Carolyn Kay and Thomas W., Jr.

Through the years the Keeney family have been farmers, merchants, gunsmiths and clock repairers, carpenters and at the present time, Tom and son Bill are with the postal service at Belton.

For many years, Mary Kathryn with her husband, Mack, operated Mack's Service Station, During the 40's and 50's it was located at Walnut and 58 Highway, in 1961 they moved to a new station on North Scott St., which they operated until Mack's death in 1971.

Hargis

William Henry Hargis, for whom the Hargis residential area in Belton is named was the son and grandson of early day Missouri pioneers in Howard, Cass and Jackson counties. His grandfather, Josiah N. Hargis was born in Howard County, Mo. in 1820. Of French origin, he was the son of one of four brothers who migrated to Missouri from Kentucky in the

County, Mo. in 1820. Of French origin, he was the son of one of four brothers who migrated to Missouri from Kentucky in the earliest days of settlements across the Mississippi. Two other brothers were lost to Indians en route. Josiah, a school teacher, joined the California gold rush in 1849 and returned to Bunker Hill in Howard County with \$500, enough to enter the mercantile business. When the Kansas Territory was opened for settlement, he took up government land in Douglas County, Kansas near the present site of Lawrence. He moved to Lee's Summit, Mo. in 1857 and built the first house there in 1858. With William Colbern, he founded the first bank in Lee's Summit and in 1874, founded the first bank in Belton, the J. N. Hargis & Son Bank, He also bought a 400 acre farm near Belton.

Josiah Hargis married Mary Finley a native of Alabama, on Feb. 2, 1845. Ten children were born to them: Malinda J.



Myrtle Mae and William H. Hargis about 1901

-34F -



At left, the original Hargis home. Above, the home as it appears today.

Smith, Louisa Thompson, Benjamin Finley, Andrew J., John C. B., Vidla Mc Conelly, Joseph N., William J., Mary C. Kendrick and Lillian Givens.

Josiah died Feb. 11, 1881, his wife, Mary, July 11, 1914. Henjamin Finley Hargis was born May 29, 1852 in Howard County. After completing his education in Lee's Summit and Independence, Mo., he became a junior member of his father's banking concern. He opened a grain office in Belton in 1884 and became cashier of the Bank of Belton in 1896. He moved to Kansas City and was active in business there for many years. He was president of the Westport Avenue Bank for more than 10 years and was also a director of several other Kansas City banks. He was president of the Kansas City Board of Trade in 1901, and a founder of Citizens Bank of Belton in 1908, Benjamin married Patricia Lillard of Danville, Kentucky on April 27, 1880. She was the daughter of Thomas M. and Mary Patricia (Bright) Lillard. Before her death on March 27, 1890, three children were born to the Hargis'; Benjamin, Mary and William Henry. Eleven years after the death of his first wife, Benjamin Finley married her sister, Henrietta Lillard. No children were born to this marriage. Benjamin Finley Hargis died July 24, 1934, his wife, Henrietta in 1935.

William Henry Hargis was born in Belton on Nov. 12, 1885. He joined his father's organization soon after the turn of the century and was active in the grain market for many years. He settled in Belton in 1913 and operated his farm continuously until 1945. He became one of the leading producers in Missouri of Polled Hereford cattle and the stock farm in Belton was one of the show places of the area around Kansas City. He retired from active ranching in 1945, but was active in many civic projects. He served for years on the Metropolitan Area Planning Council; was vice-president of the Cass County Metropolitan Planning Council and served on many committees and boards that dealt with civic and political matters. The development of Hargis Gardens was a pet project of his and the development was on the Hargis farm land.

William Hargis married Myrtle Mae Jackson on Jan. 3, 1912. She was the daughter of William and Serelda Floyd (Boyd) Jackson. She was born at Fargo Springs, Kans. William and Myrtle had no children. William (Bill) Hargis died following a heart attack on Aug. 6, 1962. His wife, Myrtle, died in December, 1971. The Hargis' donated the land for the Belton Christian Church and William Hargis was responsible for saving the small park by city hall.

Lillian Hargis Givens, daughter of Josiah N. Hargis was married to George Givens in 1900. He was a native of Danville, Kentucky and was an extensive coal operator. He opened up and developed a great deal of coal land during his business career. He died in 1904. Lillian Givens lived in Belton and was

active in many fields. She was an active member of the W.C.T.U. and an active advocate of equal suffrage for women.

Benjamin Lillard Hargis, older brother of William Henry, married James Stoddard and they were the parents of Benjamin Stoddard Hargis (1906-) who married Helen Ree (1906-) on Nov. 30, 1937. They live in Kansas City, as does their daughter, Helen Rosalyn Hargis (1940-). Helen married William Calhoun Mofter, Jr. in 1967.

Nancy Jane Hargis (1912 -) married Stoddard Hammond Martin (1905-) in 1946, Their two children are Jane Hargis Martin (1947 -) and Stoddard H. Martin, Jr. (1948-). They



Mary Finley Hargis

are all residents of California.

John C. B. Hargis, another son of Josiah N. Hargis, was born Jan. 9, 1857. He died in February, 1922 and is buried in the Belton Cemetery. He married Louella Gill, daughter of Marcus Gill, an early settler of Missouri. They had two children, Susan Bruton Hargis (1881-1965) who married Max A. Christopher in 1900. They had one daughter, Maxine, who married Byron T. Shutz in 1923. They live in Kansas City, as do their three children: Byron Christopher Shutz, Laura Ann Shutz Slough and Susanne Christopher Shutz Curry. Susan Hargis Christopher was a noted genealogist and compiled six books of family genealogy. She was national president of the Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin Towne, Va., an active member in the National Society, Daughters of American Colonists and honorary regent of the Kansas City Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

John C. B., and Louella Hargis also had a son, John C. B., Jr. His family, John C. B. Hargis, III; William Richardson Hargis; Max Bruton Hargis and Louella Sue Hargis (Mrs. Robert Richard Rettke) have lived in California for many years.

Briant

Alexander Chapman Briant was born in Cooper County, Mo., Dec. 16, 1827. His father, William, was born in Virginia, Feb. 7, 1793. William was married twice. First to a Miss Barnett and before her death in 1824, they had three children, Elizabeth, Judith and a son, Davis.

He then married Elizabeth Sloan, sister of Rev. Robert Sloan, a well known divine of the Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth and William were the parents of three sons and seven

daughters.

When Alexander was 11 years old the family moved to Lafayette County, Mo., and in 1846, moved to Jackson Coun-

Alexander married Susan G. Moore in 1852. She was the daughter of Travis G. Moore, a native Kentuckian, who had settled early in Jackson County. In the early 60's, the Briants

moved to Cass County.

From 1859 to 1867, Briant was engaged in transporting goods across the plains to Mexico, often contracting with the U.S. Government.

He was elected sheriff and collector of Cass County in 1870. It was during his term of office that the railroad bond scandal occurred. (See article in this book "Let's Build a Railroad."

Briant was elected to the State Legislature from Cass County in 1874 on the Democratic ticket, and he was a member of the state executive and congressional committees.

Alexander and Elizabeth Briant were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for many years. They left no direct descendants.

Meador



Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Meador

William I. Meador and Sadie Ellen Barr of Belton were married on March 3, 1886 and soon after their marriage settled on a farm north of town, where they lived until their deaths, he in 1935 and she in 1937. Their farm home was where Crest Thriftway store is now.

They were the parents of nine children; Ida, who died in infancy; William Roy, Berry Barr and Clarence Dennis, all deceased; Chester Ray, Mazie Leona (McKee), Harry Dallas, all of Belton; Herbert Isaac of Grove, Okla.; and Sarah Marguerite of Tulsa, Okla.

Roy and his wife, Minnie had two children: Sarah Margaret Rothfuss, Albany, Ore., and Marjorie Lee Shultz, deceased;

Berry and his wife, Edith (Bumgardner) had one son, Bob. Bob and his wife, Nadine, had two children, Bob Jr., and Theresa. Bob, Jr., and his wife, Sue, have two children, Robin and Douglas. They live in Belton.

Chester and his wife, Marie, had three children. Their

children are: Chester Lee of Overland Park, Kans.; Mrs. Dean Barker of Crystal Lake, Ill.; and Jim Meador of Aurora, Colo.

Harry Meador and his wife, Marjorie, have three children: Mrs. Robert Miller of Ft. Worth, Tex.; Mrs. Terry Tracy of Wichita, Kans., and Harry D. Jr., with Army Intelligence in Thailand.

Clarence and his wife, Minnie, had two children: George D., Oklahoma City, Okla. and Bill of Pittsburgh, Pa.



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Meador on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

McKinley

John Henry McKinley, son of John and Kezia McKinley, married Sarah Elizabeth Nichols, daughter of Elizabeth and Daniel Nichols, on June 11, 1870 in Kansas City. The McKinley family was from Illinois, the Nichols were from Iowa.

Kansas City was not a large place at that time. The Mc-Kinleys took an afternoon stroll the day before they were married, walked on every street in town and returned home before the evening meal.

They purchased a farm in the Stilwell, Kansas area five

miles west of Belton in 1872 where they raised eight of their eleven children to adulthood. They were the parents of William W., Charles Henry, Rosa E. Fitzjerald, M. Elizabeth Hallisey, D. Newton, Thomas N., Earl O., and Fanny G. Kinnison.

Thomas N. and his wife live at 120 E. South Avenue in Belton and Mrs. Fanny Kinnison lives in Stilwell, Kans.

Charles Henry McKinley was married to Velma I. Kinnison in 1899 at Old Sante Fe. Velma was the daughter of Eliza J. (Wright) and Wesley Kinnison. One of the family's favorite



Charles and Velma McKinley

stories is the one about Charlie on his wedding day. When leaving for his wedding, he stepped into the buggy reached for the reins but alas! no reins. In the excitement he had neglected to bring the horse from the barn.

Charles and Velma bought a farm in the Stilwell area when they were married and later owned and operated the hotel and livery stable at Stilwell before moving to the Belton community.

They are the parents of three children: Sarah Ellen, John Wesley and Elmer Newton.

Sarah Ellen was married to Oral Eisele in 1921. They owned the Belton Hotel on Main Street during World War II, Ellen passed away in 1953.

John Wesley married Flossie E. Ashin 1924 in Belton, She was the daughter of Mary R. (Hankins) and George W. Ash. Wesley and Flossie operated a dairy farm at Jaudon for 20 years prior to 1968, at which time they converted to raising Black Angus cattle. The McKinleys have three daughters all living in the Belton area: Margie M. Dimick, Dorothy E. Lane and Mary I. Laffoon.

Margie and D. Kent Dimick, from El Dorado Springs, have four children: Dana K., Damon K., Diana K., and D. Kevin.

Dorothy is married to George Barker Lane, from Raymore, and they have one daughter, Sandra Edith.

Mary is the wife of Bill D. Laffoon, from Cleveland, and they have one daughter, Brenda Lee.

Elmer N. McKinley married Enid L. Olson, daughter of Irene B. (Imel) and Harry M. J. Olson. They were married in 1941 at the Olson farm home which is now a part of the Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base. Elmer is a senior tool design engineer for Bendix Corp. Elmer and Enid have five children: Anita L. Kuhn, Sylvia A. Amborn, Leanne K. Dial, Richard W. and Jeanette Lynn.

Anita is the wife of Jack W. Kuhn from Pennsylvania and they have a daughter, Lila Louise, 4 years old. The Kuhns live in Harrisonville.

Sylvia is married to Albert C. Amborn, from Kansas City, and they live in Mission, Kans.

Leanne is the wife of Larry Dial of Belton.

Three generations of the McKinley family have attended Belton schools.

Charles was killed in a bus accident in March, 1945. During World War II the bus carried local residents to employment at the Pratt & Whitney Defense Plant at 95th & Bannister Road.

Velma still lives in Belton and only in recent years has she retired from driving her red electric car, which was a familiar sight on Main Street.



Velma McKinley beside her red electric car which was a familiar sight in Belton.

Higgins

Joe Higgins came from Collins, St. Claire County, Mo. to Belton in 1919, with his bride Annie Elkins. His parents came to Belton the following year and remained until their deaths.

Higgins worked first on the Pickering Farm (now the Owen Good Ranch) and the Merryvale Farm. In 1922, he went to work for R. C. Wilson and was with him for 30 years until Wilson's death in 1942. The Wilson farm was located where the Grace Company is now. After Wilson's death, Higgins rented the farm and farmed for himself until he retired in 1947. He moved into Belton and built the home on Spring St., where he still lives

The Higgins' had four children, Faye, Gene, Theodore and Virginia. In later years Annie worked for The Little Shirt Co. and the Grace Company until poor health forced her retirement in 1961. She died in February, 1964.

Fay Higgins married Joe Leader and they have three children. Daughter Judy still lives at home; son Jeff and daughter Jackie Benzaquen, her husband and daughter Edit live on a Kibbutz in Israel. Fay graduated from Belton High School and





At left, Joe and Annie Higgins with Fay, Ted and Gene in the mid-twenties. At right, (I to r), Fay, Gene, Annie, Joe, Virginia and Ted in the late forties.

was employed for many years at The Grace Company. Gene Higgins lives in Belton with his wife, Evelyn Peek Higgins and daughters, Janet and Lori. Son Terryand his wife, Jeannie and daughter, Cathy, moved to Belton this year. Their other daughter, Sheila, also lives in Belton with her busband, Don Strong, and daughter, Shelley. Gene served with the Army in World War II, works at the Bendix Company and builds houses in his spare time.

Dr. Theodore Higgins, DVM, has an animal hospital in Grandview. He graduated from Belton High School and spent some time in Oregon where he enlisted in the Marines. After he returned to Belton he had a dairy herd for a time and then decided to finish college. He started the HI Ber Nursing home in Grandview in 1964. He lives in Grandview with his wife, Mary Twente Higgins and son Mark.

Virginia Higgins graduated from Belton High School, worked for a few years at The Grace Company and then married Leo Mosby, also a native of Belton. The Mosby's have a daughter, Cindy, who with her husband, Ray Tootle and daughter, Michelle, lives in Dublin, Ga. Their son, Jimmy Joe is undergoing USMC basic training. The Mosby's have been active in 4-H, Girl Scouts and for the past 17 years have been actively connected with youth baseball in Belton. Leo is presently a city councilman.

Middleton - Lininger

Samuel George Middleton and his wife moved to an area about three miles west of Belton in 1885, from Miami County, Kans, with their three sons and a daughter that died in her youth. Samuel worked as a carpenter on the railroad and died in 1940.

One son Ransom Frederick (Fred), born 3-16-82, married Annie Elizabeth Garrett in Scotland County, Mo., 7-28-01, where they lived until 1902 when they moved to Belton on Spring Street. He worked on the railroad. In the summer of 1905 Fred and Annie left Belton with their small son, Lester David, in a covered wagon to homestead 160 acres of Wheatland in Texas County, Okla. Living in a dug-out, a daughter, Ethel May, and a son, Joseph Gordon were born. They returned to Belton in the summer of 1913, and built a one room house which is still a part of the house at 115 Carnegie. The following year they moved to Miami, Okla, while Fred worked on a railroad project, returning to their home in Belton in late 1915.

Middleton worked on the railroad here and, was a strawboss on the construction of 71 and 69 Highways, coming home



Ethel Mae, Gordon and Lester Middleton taken about 1915. The picture was taken by Dale Carnegie.

only on weekends from the Louisburg, Kans. area. He would spend most of the weekend working on his Model T to make the return trip. Here, a daughter, Mary Catherine and two sons,



Fred Lininger, Sr., in 1933 and a picture of the Lininger home at 115 Carnegie taken in 1926.

Charles Edward and Cleo Neal were born.

Lester David worked around the Belton area with his father and later operated Middleton Sheet Metal Shophere. He married Clara Louise Linder, from Belton, and they lived where the house at 107 Carnegie is now. The original house burned down in 1927, killing their two-year-old daughter. A son, Adam was born in Belton, March 5, 1928. Lester and his family moved from Belton in 1940, returning in 1956. Lester died in 1956. His wife and son still reside here.

Ethel May graduated from Belton High School in 1926. She went to Kansas City to work and in 1928 married Fred H. Lininger (who in 1907 moved to Belton with his mother and brother, and lived on Third Street). They returned to Belton with their children, Shirley and Fred J., in 1944. Shirley was a 1954 graduate of Belton, Fred Graduated in 1957. They lived in Belton (except for two years) until their deaths, Fred in 1964 and Ethel in 1967. Fred Jr., his wife, Charlotte, and sons, Donald, Ronald and Steven, presently live in Belton.

Gordon Middleton left Belton to work in Kansas City. Mary Catherine graduated from Belton High School in 1934 and went to Kansas City.

Charles Edward graduated from Belton in 1937. He married Hazel May Endicott, from Belton, and went to Kansas City to work.

Cleo Neal was a 1941 Belton graduate. He married Lels Ruth Lewis from Belton. Three children were born in Belton: Cleo Jr., Susan and Ruth Ann. Another son Richard (born in Calif.) left Belton in 1953 and returned in 1964. All of the family presently live in Belton.

Reid

John W. and Martha Reid came to Belton in 1907 from Coleman, Mo., just north of Harrisonville, where they had settled in 1886.

John was born in Illinois in 1860, and came to Missouri as a young man in his twenties, looking for farmland. The

first piece of property he looked at was in Kansas City where the Nelson Art Gallery is today. But he liked what he saw farther south and settled in Coleman.

Martha Reeder Reid had come to Coleman from South Missouri where she was born in 1862. Her parents had come north during the Civil War and while the family was in Kansas City, was offered 40 acres of land to the south in trade for their teams of horses and oxen. Martha's father declined the offer, and the family returned to their home in South Missouri after the war, only to find not a trace of their home. The family then settled in Coleman across the road from the Reids.

Their bome in Belton was in the northeast section of town. They had six children, E. Ray (deceased) was born in 1886; A. Ives was born in 1887; O. Elton (deceased) was born in 1888; Nancy (who married Leslie Ramey of Belton) was born in 1893; Fern was born in 1898; John, Jr., in 1902 and Albert in 1905.

All the children attended the Belton schools and John and Albert were members of the championship basketball team of 1920 -21 at Belton High School.

John, Fern, Nancy and Albert all received Bachelor's degrees at Contral Missouri State College at Warrensburg, and their Master's degrees at the University of Missouri. The first three are all retired from long teaching careers in the Kansas City Public Schools. Albert was superintendent of schools at Warsaw, Mo., but later gave up the teaching profession.

Nancy is now a resident of Ft. Smith, Ark., John lives in Independence, Mo., Fern in Kansas City and Albert in Yorktown, Tex.

A. Ives Reid, now of Graudview, was one of three Beltonites ever to serve in the State Legislature at Jefferson City. He was treasurer and ex officio collector of Cass County for two terms, 1933-1941; mayor of Belton, 1941-1942; and state representative from 1943 to 1946. He was elected a senator in 1948 and served in the sixty-sixth General Assembly as chairman of the committee on Agriculture and a member of the following committees: Ways and Means, State Departments, Boards, Commissions and Agencies and Public Buildings; Fees, Salarles and Local Government; Education, University, School of Mines, State Colleges and Libraries, Corrections, Penal Institutions, and Training Schools; and Conservation, Parks and Forestry. He served two terms.

His first wife, Kathryn B. Barr, died in 1940 and in 1945 he married Wilma E. Brown of Kingsville, Mo. He has a son, Allen Ives, Jr., of Clovis, N. M., who a few years ago, bought back the original Reid home in Coleman.



A. Ives Reid, one of three Beltonites to serve in the State Legislature in Jefferson City. The other two were William Perry Houston and Alexander Chapman Briant.

John W. Reid died in 1938, his wife Martha in 1946. They are buried in the Wills Cemetery in Peculiar, Mo.

Roberts

James F. Roberts was a farmer, who in 1883 owned 180 acres of improved land, surrounded and subdivided by a hedge fence, which he had bought in 1869. Roberts was a native of Madison County, Ky., and was born March 12, 1839. He was the son of S. and M. (Park) Roberts. His father, a native of North Carolina, was born in 1793 and died in 1863. His mother was born in Madison County, Ky. in 1809 and died in 1851.

James F. was raised in Madison County and when he was 17 years old, he began working at odd jobs and by the month. He went to Brown County, Il., in 1855. He came to Cass County, Mo., four years later. He farmed for two years and during

the Civil War spent his time in New Mexico and Colorado.

He married Mattie Oldham on March 26, 1874. She was a native of Cass County, born June 7, 1857. Her parents were William W. and Mary (Moore) Oldham. The Roberts, members of the Christian Church, had nine children: Alexis, Emily, George P., Nellie, Benjamin, Edith, Samuel, James and Opal.

Three of the children still survive. James Roberts lives in Yorba Linda, Calif., Nellie (Mrs. Nellie Mizener) lives in El Paso, Texas and Edith (Mrs. Edgar E. Carson is also a resident of El Paso.

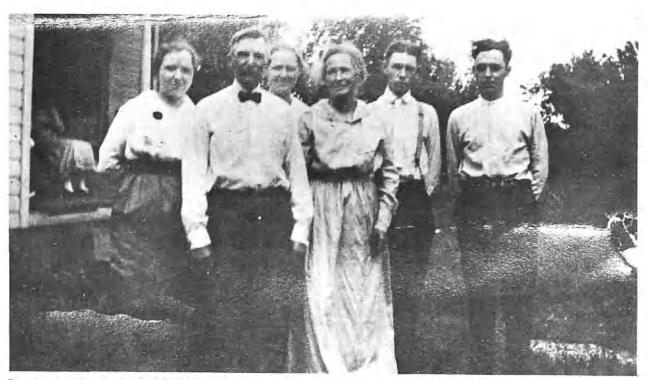


Kinnison



The Kinnison family at a reunion in the thirties. Shown in front are Wesley and Eliza Kinnison. Back row (1 to r) are Iva, George, Grace (mother of Clarence and Rollin Ashbaugh), Lloyd, Alvy, Velma (who married Charles McKinley), Henry (still of Belton) and Fanny.

Harrison



Standing in front of their children are Mathew T. and Mary Susan Harrison. Behind their parents are Mrs. Clarence Keeney, Mrs. Henry Bricker, I. O. and Marion Harrison. The picture was taken in June, 1919 in front of the present Sams home on Mill Street.

Additional Family Notes

Additional Family Notes





Belton Is Our Town

Ada Maxine's Beauty Salon

522 N. Scott

331-3048

Mr. Marty's Coiffure

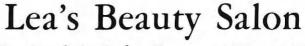
525 N. Scott

331-2828

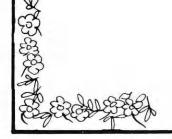
Sue Ann's Hair Styles

307 Main

331 - 3121



Springdale Lake Estates 331-0185





Beauty Is Our Business

Sharon Rae's Beauty Shop

342 N. Scott

331-0010

Mr. Roy's Beauty Salon

120 E. North Ave.

331-3329

Calla's Beauty Salon

408 Ella

331-1360

Peg's Style Setters

551 N. Scott



We salute the Belton community on its centennial (and we'd like to make a timely observation . . .)

N A S A isn't exactly "a newcomer" either

As Belton celebrates its 100th year, the folks at the sign of the silver dollar are marking their own 46th year of service to the metropolitan area. We're proud of Belton's steady progress and we're privileged to have played a part in its booming growth in recent years.

Serving three generations of area residents with all types of insured savings plans, and loans to buy and build new homes and improve existing homes is a contribution to community progress which expresses our appreciation of your patronage. "Thank you" for making us an integral part of the booming Belton area!

MODERN INSURED SAVINGS PLANS TO SUIT YOUR SPECIAL GOALS:

- · Regular Passbook Savings
- 90 Day Accounts
- 4 Types of Savings Certificates
- · Christmas Club Accounts
- Trust Accounts

"3 M" SAVINGS-YOUR MONEY MAILED MONTHLY

- Excellent Earnings and Your Savings Principal Remains Intact
- SAVE IN PERSON OR BY MAIL
- HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS
- **TRAVELERS' CHECKS**
- HOME LOANS TO BUY OR BUILD
- CUSTOMER CHECK
- MONEY ORDERS
- NOTARY SERVICE





519 Main — At Silver Dollar Lane Opposite Post Office Belton, Mo. 64012 Phone (816) 331-6400



NORTH AMERICAN SAVINGS

ASSOCIATION

Established 1927

Home Office: 1009 Grand Opp Phone: 842-2305 F

1220 E. 63rd Opposite The Landing Phone: 363-3682 3rd and Jefferson Lee's Summit, Mo. Phone: 524-0500 125th & So. 71 Hwy. Grandview, Mo. Phone: 763-3100 519 Main Belton, Mo. Phone: 331-6400

Robert F. Hoefer, Pres. 501 Francis St.

St. Joseph, Mo. Phone (816) 233-8091

FLEETWOOD



SINCE 1936

Congratulations, Belton, on Your 100th Year

"We Are Proud To Be a Part of Your Growth."

VIRGIL J. OHMES Construction Co.

Distinctive Homes



Our Entry in the Spring Parade of Homes During Belton's 100th Year

Belton, Missouri

(816)331 - 6710

Congratulations, Belton, on Your 100th Birthday

Paul Hamilton Realty Company

4333 Madison

Kansas City, Missouri

A Newspaper For

Yesterday . . .

Today ...

And

Tomorrow.

"Serving Belton Since 1892"



Compliments of:

Belton Dry Goods

SINCE 1950

Murray and Esther Rosenthal

322 Main

331-4314

Bob Wildermuth Owner - Operator

Cass County Typewriter

Sales - Service - Rentals

Harrisonville, Missouri

884-5310

Residential • Farms • Commercial

Don

RYDEN

Realty

605 CHERRY STREET • BELTON, MISSOURI • 331-3030

Bank of Belton Building

"A NAME ASSOCIATED WITH BELTON SINCE 1910"

We're glad to be part of Belton during its Centennial

Manley Furniture

Milton Manley

410 Main

331-1515

Home Lumber Co.

Frank Votova-Owner

SERVING BELTON SINCE 1943

308 Walnut

331-4565



Mosby Insurance Service

(Formerly Russell S. Mullen Insurance Agency)

SERVING BELTON SINCE 1917

408 Main

William J. Mosby, Agent

331-2660



Ware's '66

Dee Ware - Owner

331-9890

301 No. Scott



Lyon Drug Company

"ON THE BELTON PLAZA"
331-6040



George Funeral Homes

SINCE 1905

Belton R. E. George Grandview St. Goddard



Maier Developments, Inc.

103 South Scott Ave.

Builders and Developers (Belton and Raymore)

OUR 19TH YEAR IN BELTON

Roger S. Maier, Realtor

Office: 331-6363

Res: 331-5216

First Realty of Belton

103 South Scott Ave.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Office: 331-6363

Res: 331-5216

Abbeygale's Antiques

Belton, Missouri

4 Miles South on Y-1/4 Mile East

331-6199

Don Buck

AUCTIONEER
All Types Auction Sales

Raymore, Missouri 64083

331-2140

Compliments of:

Mölferman's "Good Things to Cat"

fine food stores and restaurants

owned and operated by the Wolferman family

for your family....since 1888

Corner of Commercial And Cherry Streets 331-3097

Ted's Belton Cleaners

Ted R. Beeghly, Owner

Complete Laundry Service

-SINCE 1948-

we care



138 East North Ave. Belton, Missouri



RESTAURANT

"Where the Steak is Born"

1600 Genesee

Kansas City, Missouri



Plank Ford Sales

SINCE 1960 Gerald Plank

What a way to go. APCO

Command Performance Gasolines

Joe's Oil Company

SINCE 1944

Joseph A. Pusateri

1008 North Scott

331-9714



Apollo Ceramics

Distributor and Factory Representative For

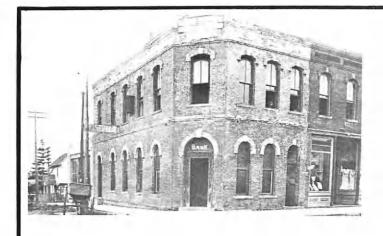
CERAMICHROME

Greenware - Brushes - Slip

DISTRIBUTOR for McNEES MOLDS

Joseph A. Pusateri

1002 North Scott



Service to this Community Since 1884



'Your Home-Owned, Hometown Bank'



BANK of BELTON

324 MAIN ST. ● 331-4888 MEMBER FDIC



Congratulations Belton on your 100th Anniversary

L.T. Brown

Lawn Service

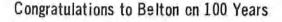
HOME OWNED AND OPERATED

5 Belmo Dr.

331-6391



L.T., Barbara, Dave, Don, Terry and Lori





Famous Name Brand

Dresses * Skirts * Pant Suits

* Suits * Blouses

* Lingerie * Swim Suits * After Five Dresse

save up to 50%

On Our One of a Kind Salesman's Samples

Mr. and Mrs. Ned Weiss, Owners





TWO LOCATIONS:
Overland Park
Belton
7327 W. 80, NI-8-3410 Twin Daks Plaza, 331-5911

EDWARD B. THOMSON ENTERPRISES INC.

Countryside Realty

• experienced sales service in residential, commercial & rural properties

543 N. SCOTT - BELTON, MO. 331-4326

> SILVER LAKE OFFICE 331-7227

Edward B. Thomson & Son

Builder & Developer

331-5211

• quality designed & constructed homes



Centennial Congratulations



Real Estate Bought - Sold - Traded
"A HOME TOWN FAMILY STILL AT HOME!"
Rommie, Frances, Randy, Steven Pitts

119 E. South Ave.

Belton, Mo.

331-2992

Xi Gamma Kappa

(Beta Sigma Phi)

Salutes Belton On Its 100th Anniversary

Wishing Belton the best on its 100th

The Barber Bar

Jerry Barr-Owner

Peculiar, Missouri



Fred Busker

MFA Insurance

217 North Scott



COLUMBIA UNION

NATIONAL BANK & TRUST COMPANY

900 Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri 64106 (816) 474-6211

"The Bank That Makes Things Happen"



Belton American Legion Post 488

BELTON, MISSOURI

MORE THAN 50 YEARS SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY



Happy Birthday Belton On Your 100th

Our low overhead means lower prices for you. We will be glad to give you a free estimate.

Financing Available

Lasswell

Heating and Air Conditioning

200 Park Ave.

331-4516

Belton, Mo.



Broadmoor Gardens

533 No. Scott Belton, Missouri

Harry Burry

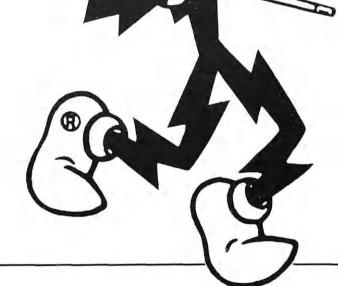
Floretta Burry

We're Proud To Be A Part Of This Growing Community!

Belton Businessmen's Association

DISCOVER THE





ELECTRIC LIVING



missouri public service company

serving 222 communities in western missouri

Bud McCauley

McCauley Trucking

Rock - Sand - Dirt 331-1084

621 Commercial

Belton, Mo.

Fay Hardware Co. 1932-1972

Cooks Paints and Varnishes, Housewares, Frankoma Pottery, Plumbing and Electrical Supplies, Gift Merchandise and General Hardware

It has been a pleasure to serve our customers during the last 40 years.

415 Main

331-4350

Carl Gum John Wickert

Congratulations Belton on your 100th anniversary — you've come a long way — wishing you a progressive and prosperous future.

Double J Janitor Service

421 Main -331-5570 - Belton, Mo.

SERVING YOUR AREA SINCE 1962

J.J. Waltmire, Pres. 331-3593

Ron Cotter, Vice-Pres. 331-5570

Green Valley

MOBILE HOME PARK

Highway 71 South, Kansas City, Mo.

• Close to Richards-Gebaur AFB • Shade Trees & Patios • Mail to Door • Laundry • City Water

• 220 V. Elec. • Natural Gas • Storage • Storm Shelter • Playground • School Bus

1501 N. Scott

Belton, Mo.

331-4892

Compliments Of:

Dr. & Mrs. Harold E. Calvin, D.C.

Lininger Real Estate

Serving Belton With Residential Rental Property Since 1952

115 Carnegie

We Extend Our Congratulations to Belton on It's Centennial



Dale Carnegie - Founder

Dale Carnegie & Associates, Inc. Suite 200B 1475 Franklin Avenue Garden City, New York 11530

Congratulations Belton!

Benson Lumber Company

SINCE 1939

323 Commercial Street



For Your Best Buys

Shop Belton T. G. & Y



134 East North Avenue Twin Oaks Shopping Center

SINCE 1947

John Klaus and Sons Greenhouses

Barney Klaus, Owner

Cass County Line Road

331-4900

SINCE 1953

Belton Grain Company

Feed-Grain-Lawn and Garden Supplies Tack Shop

Bob and Frank Buerge



507 Walnut

We Are Proud To Be A Part Of The Great City Of Belton.

We operate two stores -- One in Hickman Mills, Missouri and one in Belton. Our Belton store was opened in 1957 in our present location, and the building was enlarged to its present size in 1961, to keep pace with the growth of the city.

Our policy has always been to bring you quality and a variety of merchandise at a fair price and "The Customer is Always Right in Our Stores."

Sincerely,

W. A. Schaper Robt. M. Bowes, Jr. -- Owners

CREST FOOD CENTER, Inc.

THRIFTWAY

Quality Foods at Everyday Low Prices

305 N. Scott

331-4544

George Raupp Realty

10919 Hickman Mills Drive 761-5400 Kansas City, Missouri

Mendell Myers Agency

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE

Commerce Bank Building

Since 1930

Steve Myers

Tana Field

Mendell Myers

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS BELTON LODGE NO. 891, BELTON, MISSOURI 1819 – 1972 1949 – 1972



MEETING PLACE — American Legion Hall
WHEN — 1st and 3rd Wednesday of Month TIME — 8 o'clock

Theodore Roberts, Noble Grand Henry R. Dryer, Secretary

For Luncheon and Dinner 7 Days a Week

PUTSCH'S

CAFETERIAS

COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA 300 West 47th Street IN CORINTH SQUARE Mission Road at 83rd

IN METCALF SOUTH Metcalf at 95th

Also enjoy Putsch's Sidewalk Cafe on the Country Club Plaza

The Plaza Cafeteria, the Corinth Cafeteria, and the Metcalf Cafeteria offer different decor — modern on the Plaza, authentic Williamsburg in Corinth Square, Contemporary English in Metcalf South — all three offer quality food, moderate prices, and variety that make Putsch's popular.

Charles Benjamin

Frank Benjamin, Jr.

Benjamin Sundries and Bait Shop

LIQUOR • BEER • FINE WINES

Live Bait & Tackle Supplies

Block Ice for Campers

217 E. North Ave.

331-9861

Smith's
HOUSE
OF
PHOTOGRAPHY



603 N. Scott Belton, Mo. 331-1886

Bob and Meg Smith

A Centennial Message from



THE MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES OF THE HY KLAS FOOD STORE, WHILE CELEBRATING OUR TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR FELLOW RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS IN HERALDING BELTON'S CENTENNIAL. THE HY KLAS FOOD STORE IS PROUD OF ITS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT AND IS HONORED TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN BELTON'S GROWTH THROUGH THE YEARS AND TO BE A PART OF ITS CENTENNIAL. WE SALUTE YOU BELTON, "THE FRIENDLY CITY."

VERNON AND JO ANN MUCKE, OWNERS

EMPLOYEES

John Shawhan
Jimmy Dickerson
Gaylord Carrell
Arthur Weaver
J. R. Eastnam, Jr.
Jim Stone
John Renken
Chuck Pennington
Howard Zachary

Harold Kruse
Harold Kihn
Mary Alice Lee
Lydin Moles
Myrtle Walker
Robert Day
John Powell
Phil Cummings
Marjorie Furman

Lyle Furman



Looking Forward With Belton to a Bright Future

Western Auto Associate Store

Allan and Jake Jones

402 Main

331-4989

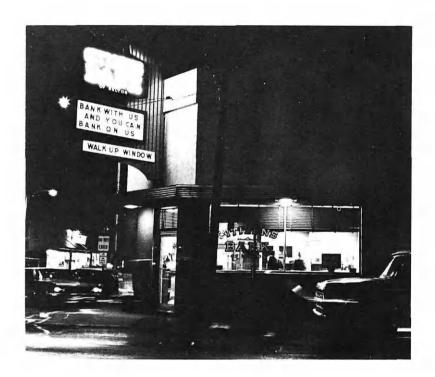
We Salute Belton On Its 100th Birthday

Catron Furniture and Appliance, Inc.

SINCE 1950 Herb and Lena Catron

319 Main

We can help.



Citizens Bank of Belton

325 Main St.

"Service with security since 1908"

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation





SINCE 1929

Steinbrueck's Inc.



With All Honor We Pay Tribute to Belton For Its Century of Progress While We Celebrate Our 44th Year Serving Belton

G.G. - BOB - JUN STEINBRUECK

Kens Mens Wear

"Clothes for Dad and the Lad"

BankAmericard - Master Charge

Twin Oaks Shopping Center

331-1716

MANY OF THESE OLD REMEDIES HAVE NOT WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME. ALTHOUGH OUR DRUG STORE IS NOT OF ANTIQUE VINTAGE, WE'VE BEEN SERVING THE DRUG NEEDS OF BELTON SINCE 1931. WE THINK OUR MODERN DRUG STORE WILL PROVE WE HAVE WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME. WE ARE STANDING READY TO SERVE YOU.



Dryden Drug Co.

401 Main St. 331-4747